

Hafa Adai!

KCHC to open health center on Tinian. PAGE 7
Clock starts ticking on weed regs. PAGE 6

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

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MICRONESIA CLEANUP DAY

Armed with trash bags and gloves, volunteers from different government agencies and private organizations, picked up litter in the different parts of the island as part of the first ever Micronesia Cleanup Day.

Story on Page 2

IVA MAURIN



TD causes widespread floods

» As of 6pm last night, no one sought refuge at Dandan Middle School shelter

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although not expected to hit the CNMI, a tropical depression east of the Marianas gave the islands' a glancing blow yesterday with torrential rain and gusty winds, causing floods in some roads and areas on Saipan.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 30 miles per hour, Tropical Depression 17W was moving northwest and was intensifying slightly as of last night, according to the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam.

Tropical Depression 17W is forecast to move farther away from Saipan toward the Northern Islands this morning, Monday.

Heavy rainfall over the weekend caused minor flood-

RELATED NEWS

Public warned of flash floods. [PAGE 5](#)

BY THE NUMBERS

3 to 5 inches of rain have fallen
2 to 3 inches more expected

ing on Beach Road, Chalan Pale Arnold, and other roads and some areas in Garapan,

See FLOODS on Page 4

Driving and floods

If there is any question about how deep floodwater is, avoid driving through it. Beyond that, these guidelines apply:

Water level below bottom of door

- Should you drive through it? Generally safe
- Should you start your car? Generally safe

Door frame level



Source: AAA
Graphic: Chicago Tribune/TNS

Water level above bottom of door

- Should you drive through it? Do not attempt
- Should you start your car? Do not attempt, especially if the interior is wet; water could be drawn into the combustion chambers and damage the engine



Robbers victimize store, bakery, Subway

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI was hit by a flurry of robberies this past week, with the Department of Public Safety reporting three separate incidents that, in one case, vic-

timized the Subway restaurant in Chalan Piao.

In the first incident, which occurred on Sept. 9, an armed person robbed the Suntunday store in Chalan Kanoa and there is no word yet if the po-

See ROBBERS on Page 4

Kilili expects action on HR 560

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

the Commonwealth who are considered long term.

Sablan told

Saipan Tribune in an email late Saturday evening that his legislation, H.R. 560, is set for a markup

See KILILI on Page 4



Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is expecting action on his legislation that proposes to give residency status to foreign workers in

Sablan

7 adrift for 6 days are rescued

SANTA RITA, Guam—Seven people who have been adrift on their 18-foot vessel for six days have been rescued during a joint rescue mission near the Mortlock Islands, Chuuk State last Saturday.

The boaters, who have been missing since Sept. 8, were located 224 statute miles east northeast of Satawan Atoll and were rescued by the

See ADRIFT on Page 4



INSIDE



NATION

More than 2,000 fetal remains are found at the home of a former abortion clinic doctor.

PAGE 16



WORLD

Jobs are scarce, savings are running low and money is barely trickling in.

PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE

"Desperate Housewives" star Felicity Huffman is sentenced Friday to 14 days in prison.

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Local



Campaign against trash in first Micronesia Cleanup Day

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI joined the rest of the Micronesia island communities last Friday for the inaugural Micronesia Cleanup Day in a simultaneous drive against garbage in the region.

In proclaiming Sept. 13 as Micronesia Cleanup Day, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the occasion recognizes the threat that trash poses to the

island—harming marine life, contaminating the islands' unique natural resources, and hurting the tourism industry.

Torres, who led the cleanup at the Civic Center Beach in Susupe with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, said the day also serves as a public awareness campaign that highlights how important the environment is.

"There's a saying 'leave it cleaner than when you find it,'" Torres said. "We encourage the community and our tourists to enjoy the beauty of what we have here on our island, [and] in order for us to continue this, we need to make sure we maintain and clean our island."

Torres appealed to everyone to protect the islands. "Let's protect our islands, our beaches or waters, our land. And today is just to show that one Micronesia can do a showcase around the world that we, as

Micronesians, can do this together at the same time."

Division of Coastal Resources Management director Janice Castro described the day as a CNMI-wide effort where government agencies, private organizations, and individuals volunteered. DCRM made sure that there would not be an overlap among volunteers to cover as much ground as possible.

Jonathan Arriola, also of

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, said that besides doing cleanups, people should also reuse, recycle, and properly dispose of their trash—not drive off into the jungle and dump it.

One volunteer, Bruce Camacho, said he joined to help pick up trash to emphasize the point that the island is home and should be treated as one.

"It's our island, and it's our home. So let's make it look like

our home," Camacho said. "In order for us to promote tourism, we've got to keep our island clean. A healthier island, a better economy."

This Friday, Sept. 21, the CNMI will also be joining in the annual celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup. For those who want to join the ICC, sign up at dcrm.gov.mp or contact ICC coordinator Colleen Flores at cflores@dcrm.gov.mp.

WIC provides healthy food, nutrition education, and breastfeeding guidance to more than 3,000 moms and children in the CNMI. If you are pregnant, a caregiver, or a mom with children under 5, you can get the right personalized support for you and your family.



"This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This project was supported by Grant 7NM700NMS CFDA 10.557 from USDA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of USDA."

OAG wants judge disqualified from suit vs CUC, CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Citing conflict of interest, the Office of the Attorney General wants Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho disqualified from presiding over a bench trial in a lawsuit by a landowner against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the CNMI government.

Christopher M. Timmons, chief of the OAG Civil Division, argued that Camacho's impartiality might be questioned because Brien Sers Nicholas, who is counsel for landowner Conrad M. Sablan, represents the judge's brother and grandmother in a similar lawsuit against the same defendant, the CNMI.

Timmons said the separate lawsuit involving Camacho's brother and grandmother presents legal issues that the judge will be required to decide in Sablan's case.

Timmon said this means that Camacho's decision in the Sablan case will affect the outcome of a case in which his brother and grandmother are parties seeking damages against the same defendant, the CNMI.

"These circumstances also demonstrate a personal bias against the CNMI," said Timmons, asserting that Camacho should recuse himself from the Sablan case or be disqualified from presiding over the Sablan case.

The brother and grandmother that Timmons is referring to are former Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services commissioner Claudio K. Norita and Julia Kotomar Norita. Sers Nicholas is also counsel in Claudio and Julia Norita's lawsuit against the CNMI government over the alleged taking of their land along Chalan Pale Arnold in Tanapag.

Camacho has nothing to do with the lawsuit by his brother and grandmother and actually recused himself from handling

the case. Guam Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III was appointed to handle that lawsuit.

Timmons asked the court

to disqualify Camacho from presiding over Sablan's case, asserting that persons with two degrees of kinship to the

judge will be affected and have an interest that could be affected by the outcome of this proceeding.

Timmon said the fact that Camacho insists on presiding over a matter in which Sers Nicholas, who is counsel for

Sablan, also represents the judge's family in a dispute involving the same defendant,

See OAG on Next Page

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FLOODS

From Page 1

Chalan Laulau, San Antonio, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, As Lito, and San Roque.

At 3:30pm yesterday, the northbound lane of Beach Road, from the entrance to Tasi Tours to the front of Star Water, was flooded. Some motorists proceeding north had to occupy the southbound lane to avoid the water that filled the area from the shoulder of the road up to the inner lane.

Water cascading from Chalan Pale Arnold Road covered an entire portion of Quartermaster Road.

At 3:45pm, a man was seen draining water using a pump from the side of a house that was already in knee-deep water along Palm Street corner Ginger Avenue in western Garapan.

As of 6pm yesterday, no one has sought shelter at the Dandan Middle School, one of the designated typhoon shelters on Saipan.

Dandan Middle School vice principal Reo Arriola said they opened the cafeteria as a shelter at 2pm and that they received some inquiries but no

one actually went there.

Arriola said the cafeteria has no air-conditioning unit but has electric fans.

There was no information last night if there were people who also sought refuge at the other designated shelter, Kagman High School.

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in coordination with the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam, issued a flash flood warning in effect

for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, until 9:45pm last night.

NWS warned that rainfall of 4 to 8 inches is possible through this morning, Monday, and that dangerous flash flood is possible.

NWS advised people not to venture out along south- and west-facing reefs and beaches as large breaking waves can knock people down and cause serious injuries. NWS said rip currents will be life threatening.

A high surf advisory re-

mains in effect through Tuesday night along west- and south-facing reefs.

NWS said hazardous surf of 10 to 12 feet will build to 11 to 14 feet, then fall back to 10 to 12 feet today.

As of 1pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Depression 17W was located 250 miles east-northeast of Saipan, 260 miles east-northeast of Tinian, 305 miles east-northeast of Rota, and 355 miles east-northeast of Guam.



Vehicles pass through the flooded northbound lane of Beach Road in front of Star Water in Chalan Laulau yesterday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ROBBERS

From Page 1

lice have any information that could help solve this case. The victim was forced to open the store's cash register and let the perpetrator pocket the money.

DPS reports that the victim described the suspect as approximately 5'6" tall, wearing a black hoodie with a pink logo printed on the front, and a pair of gray short pants.

The next case was reported

last Monday, when an armed individual robbed the Bostonian Bakery in Chalan Laulau. DPS states that the victim was in the kitchen preparing food and was called by a co-worker being threatened by an unidentified male with a knife. The suspect demanded the bakery's money and the victim's cellphone. He then proceeded to steal the cash from the bakery's register and escaped aboard a light blue vehicle that was headed north on Chalan Pale Arnold Road. The suspect was

described as light complexioned and had a mustache, of medium build, and wearing a gray hooded jacked and a pair of brown pants.

The last case was reported last Wednesday, where an armed individual robbed the Subway restaurant in Chalan Piao. The suspect jumped over the cashier's booth and threatened all the employees with a knife, demanding that they open the cash register. As soon as he grabbed the money from the register, he threatened the employees

that he would kill them if they call the police or follow him, and then fled south. The suspect is described as 5' to 5'6" tall, light complexioned, with acne scars around his face and has a mustache and beard, skinny build, and was wearing a black hooded raincoat, black sunglasses, and a pair of black long pants.

DPS states that these robbery cases are all ongoing cases and urged the community to report any information regarding any of these cases for potential suspects.

that program last year, but Sablan was able to get separate legislation enacted in June giving the 1,039 parolees permanent status.

"Now I want to do the same for long-term workers and for investors, who originally came in under Marianas immigration law. Giving these workers permanent status will help to stabilize the labor situation in the Marianas. And permanent status for investors will encourage them to keep their businesses in our islands," he said in the e-newsletter.

In a previous statement, Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the legislation at the time lacked support from the Trump administration. He did not state whether this stance has changed and the bill would be supported by the Trump administration if it comes out of the committee level and on to the U.S. House floor.

Section 2 (Long-term legal residents of the CNMI) subsection B (Aliens Described),

paragraph v (in addition), subparagraphs I to VI states those who are qualified for CNMI-Only permanent residency status are those who are: (I) was born in the Northern Mariana Islands between Jan. 1, 1974, and Jan. 9, 1978; (II) was, on Nov. 27, 2009, a permanent resident of the Commonwealth (as defined in section 4303 of title 3 of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Code, in effect on May 8, 2008); (III) is the spouse or child (as defined in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1))) of an alien described in subclause (I) or (II); (IV) was, on November 27, 2011, a spouse, child, or parent of a United States citizen, notwithstanding the age of the United States citizen, and continues to have such family relationship with the citizen on the date of the application described in subparagraph (A); (V) had a grant of parole under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration

and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) on Dec. 31, 2018, under the former parole program for certain in-home caregivers administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; "(VI) was admitted to the Commonwealth as a Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker during fiscal year 2015, and during every subsequent fiscal year beginning before the date of the enactment of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-218); (VII) resided in the Northern Mariana Islands as an investor under Commonwealth immigration law, and is presently resident under E-2 CNMI Investor Status (E2C)."

A permanent resident can freely enter and remain in the CNMI. However, remaining outside of the U.S.—or the CNMI in the legislation's case—for more than 12 months may result in losing permanent residency status.

Initial forecast was that Tropical Depression 17W is to weaken without reaching

tropical storm intensity, and should dissipate by Wednesday.

ADRIFT

From Page 1

crew of the patrol vessel FSS *Micronesia*.

The rescued boaters were brought to Pohnpei to meet emergency medical personnel for evaluation, reportedly arriving in good health despite drifting for 145 hours.

They were first located by a Navy Commander Task Force-72 P-8 Poseidon aircrew.

"It's a beautiful thing when multiple nations, agencies, and services develop a plan and successfully execute a multi-day search covering thousands of miles to locate all survivors and return them safely to their loved ones," said Chief Corley Myres, a Joint Rescue Sub-Center Guam watchstander.

The rescue was a joint effort by the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, Federated States of Micronesia Police, and good Samaritans in the area.

At 5:20pm, Monday, JRSC Guam watchstanders received a report from the Federated States of Micronesia Police stating four adults and three children were overdue while transiting 16 miles from Lukunor Atoll to the Satawan Atoll. The FSM Police deployed their patrol boats to search while JRSC Guam watchstanders deployed an Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules from Hawaii and requested additional support from the Navy and Air Force.

Good Samaritans from Caroline Island Air and the Bahamian-flagged 580-foot bulk carrier *African Swan* also volunteered to assist with searching for the missing boaters.

Involved in the six-day search were crews from Coast

OAG

From Page 3

the CNMI, calls his impartiality into question.

After receiving the OAG's motion to disqualify six days into the bench trial in Sablan's case, Camacho stayed the trial last Sept. 10 and requested Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja to assign another judge to hear the motion to disqualify.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo originally handled the Sablan case but, on the day of the trial, CUC and the CNMI moved to disqualify him as his wife had filed a complaint against CUC on water bill issue.

With Govendo's recusal, Naraja re-assigned the case to Camacho. Timmons then moved to disqualify Camacho.

Sablan, through Sers Nicholas, asked Camacho to recon-

Guard Joint Rescue Sub-Center Guam; Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules; FSS *Micronesia*; FSS *Palikir*; FSS *Independence*; Navy CTF 72 P-8 Poseidon from Japan; two Air Force 69th Bomb Squadron B-52 Stratofortress, Caroline Island Air; and merchant vessel *African Swan*

Throughout the multiday search, JRSC Guam watchstanders coordinated with technical experts and response crews to refine the search area. The HC-130 Hercules deployed self-locating datum marker buoys to determine the movement of the ocean currents in the area. That data was incorporated into search planning to improve the drift models and increase the chances of locating the vessel.

On Saturday afternoon, while executing a search plan developed by JSRC Guam watchstanders, the Poseidon aircrew successfully located the adrift vessel and vectored in the FSS *Micronesia* who rescued all seven boaters.

The weather throughout the region was a challenge during this case, with 7 to 8-foot seas, strong winds, and frequent rain squalls.

"This case is a testament to the importance of our strong relationships throughout the Pacific region," said Lt. Cmdr. Tory Saxon, a JSRC Guam search and rescue mission coordinator. "Through coordination with our partners in the Federated States of Micronesia, good Samaritans, and our fellow service members from the Navy and Air Force we were able to bring this case to a successful conclusion.

Good Samaritans from Caroline Island Air and the Bahamian-flagged 580-foot bulk carrier *African Swan* also volunteered to assist with searching for the missing boaters.

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the successful outcome of this search and rescue case." (USCG)

sider his decision to stay the case and ask Naraja to assign to another judge the motion to disqualify.

Sers Nicholas said the OAG's accusations of personal bias and prejudice are "total nonsense, baseless, and false." He said the "frivolous and bad faith accusations" against Camacho are false and non-existing.

To stay the proceeding in the Sablan case on account of what Sers Nicolas described as a frivolous motion "constitutes grave injustice" to Sablan, which must not only be stopped but prevented as it "sets up bad, bad precedents" in CNMI courts.

Sablan filed the lawsuit in 2015 against CUC and the CNMI government for allegedly building a water tank and putting up fences on his land in Rafugao.

Public warned of flash floods

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is warning the public of possible flash floods on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In an advisory, HSEM, in coordination with the National Weather Service, issued a flash flood warning in effect for all islands until 9:45pm last night.

Heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms were producing heavy rain across the Marianas. Three to 5 inches of rain have already fallen, and an additional 2 to 3 inches are expected over the Marianas throughout the rest of the day.

At 3:52pm, doppler radar and satellite indicated heavy rain that will continue to cause urban and small stream flooding. Overflowing poor drainage areas will result in flooding in the advisory area.

Additional rainfall of 2 to 4 inches is expected. This additional rain will continue to produce flooding. Minor property damage is possible.

The community is asked to take precautionary measures:

- Residents living along low coastal areas should take immediate precautions to protect life and property. Move to higher ground.

- If there is an emergency, contact 911.

- Please stay off the roads

as much as possible,

- Water levels can rise rapidly and sweep people away.

- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet

of water can sweep your vehicle away.

- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. If the water is moving, do not

leave the car.

- Turn around, don't drown when encountering flooded roads. Most flood deaths occur in vehicles.

- Flooding is occurring or is imminent. It is important to know where you are relative to streams, rivers, or creeks, which can become killers in

heavy rains. Hikers should avoid streams or creeks. Report any flooding to your local law enforcement or emergency manager.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres advises the community to exercise caution during this flash flood advisory.

"I ask the community to please stay safe during this flash flood advisory and to monitor updates from our local media partners and our government social media pages. We are opening up shelters just for our most vulnerable residents, particularly the ones in tents," he said.

"I thank [the Department of Public Works] for helping clear the drainage systems now, [the Public School System] and [the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs] for activating the shelters, [the Commonwealth Of-

fice of Transit Authority] for transportation, and HSEM for monitoring the storm. All of our government agencies and departments will be on standby should conditions worsen. We will continue to work together to keep all our residents safe and secure."

The Office of the Governor advises to keep a close watch on updates to weather forecasts and stay informed on the latest statements and advisories which will be available through local media sources and NOAA Weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, or call CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000 or 664-8000, and for the Northern Islands to contact CNMI EOC State warning point at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. (PR)

OPD, DPW working on Garapan flooding

By ERWIN ENCINARES

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REPORTER

As part of plans to revitalize the Garapan area, the Office of Planning and Development is working with the Department of Public Works to resolve the flooding that hits the area each time heavy rain occurs on Saipan.

OPD deputy director Chris Concepcion told *Saipan Tribune* that they are working with DPW, the Capital Improvement Project Office, Hazard Mitigation, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., and the Marianas Visitors Authority to address not just the flooding but all the problems facing the area, which include parking, drainage, and more.

Concepcion noted that the Garapan Revitalization Task Force, which he co-chairs with Ivan Quichocho, is working on securing a funding source for the project.

"We are working with DPW

and other agencies to secure federal resources to fund improvements for the drainage system in Garapan," he said.

"We saw how bad the flooding got last week with just a couple of hours of rain [in] one day," he said, noting that the water in some areas are knee-deep when it rains and creates a hazardous, unhygienic, and unhealthy environment.

"I witnessed tourists walking in the water and filming it, which we can assume will go on social media and spread from there—not a good image to portray to the markets," Concepcion told *Saipan Tribune*. "We are reasonably confident that funding is available for these infrastructure improvements so the [Garapan Revitalization] Task Force will continue to push for these projects to be prioritized by the business community and our leaders on [Capital] Hill."

There was no immediate word from DPW Secretary

James Ada and the Torres administration.

Rainy weather ahead

On Sunday, the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam announced that, as of 5pm, the 6.65 inches of rain that fell yesterday broke the previous rainfall record set back in 1983 by 2.26 inches.

"This number will go up through the evening," the NWS posted in its social media page.

In a separate post on its social media page, the agency noted that this weather would continue today after stating that it is keeping an eye on a recently-formed tropical depression just east of the Marianas.

At around 3pm yesterday, the Governor's Office issued a flash flood warning in effect for the Marianas, asking residents to stay off the roads and move to higher ground if necessary.

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Clock starts ticking for 'rolling out' weed regs

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Proponents of marijuana legalization can now start their countdown as the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission was officially created Thursday after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres swore into office its five board members.

The Saipan representatives on the commission are Matt Deleon Guerrero and Nadine Deleon Guerrero, while Tinian is represented by Journie Hofsneider, Rota by Thomas Songsong, and the Northern Islands by Valentino Taisacan.

An hour after being sworn Thursday morning, the commission met for the first time to draw lots for their respective tenures (their lengths of service) as well as to decide on who is going to be the board chair.

Nadine Deleon Guerrero was selected as the commission's first chairperson. She joins Hofsneider and Taisacan in serving the commission for four years, or a full term, while Matt Deleon Guerrero and Songsong would be serving only two years.

"I am very confident that we are going to get work done. Just by judging our chemistry,

this is an awesome board. ... We have multiple expertise," Nadine Deleon Guerrero said at the meeting. "We have agriculturists; Journie [Hofsneider] with her experience in cannabis regulations in Canada; we have business administration and financial management experience on the board. With that put together, I [believe] this will be successful and we will be able to do what we need to do in under 180 days."

With the commission's first meeting, the 180-day clock provided under Public Law 20-66 starts ticking for the

panel to come up with regulations to legalize cannabis use in the Commonwealth.

Torres, however, would prefer it if the commission is able to come up with the draft regulations before the 180 days are up, to at least review the draft regulation as soon as possible, and even by piecemeal if needed.

"Sooner is what the goal is as the governor mentioned earlier," Nadine Deleon Guerrero said.

"...By March of next year [2020] we should have everything completed and in place for the full regulations. We are

trying to beat that deadline, but we are still trying to see what kind of hiccups we encounter as we move forward," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

While the Cannabis Com-

Military trainings set

SANTA RITA, Guam—

The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises within a 10-nautical-mile radius of the coordinates 13°26'N/145°08'E and 13°42'N/144°36'E during the following dates and times:

- From 6pm-10pm, Sept. 16
- From 2pm-7pm, Sept. 17
- From 6pm-11:55pm, Sept. 18

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training from 11am to 11:55pm, Sept. 16-19, at the Dandan-Malojloj training site in Inarajan.

HSC-25 will also conduct training from 8-11:55pm, Sept. 18, at Radio Barrigada.

Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can oc-

mission is set up officially, Nadine Deleon Guerrero emphasized that the public needs to wait for the full regulations on cannabis to be approved before the substance can be used.

cur during these trainings.

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- From noon to 7pm, Sept. 17 and Sept. 19
- From 3pm-6pm, Sept. 20
- From 10am to 4pm, Sept. 21

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. W-517

is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10'N/144° 30"E, 13° 10'N/144° 42"E, 12° 50'N/144° 45"E, 11° 00'N/144° 45"E, 11° 00'N/143° 00"E, 11° 45'N/143° 00"E, and 12° 50'N/144° 30"E.

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training from 10am to 2pm, Sept. 18-19, at the island of Farallon de Medinilla. (PR)

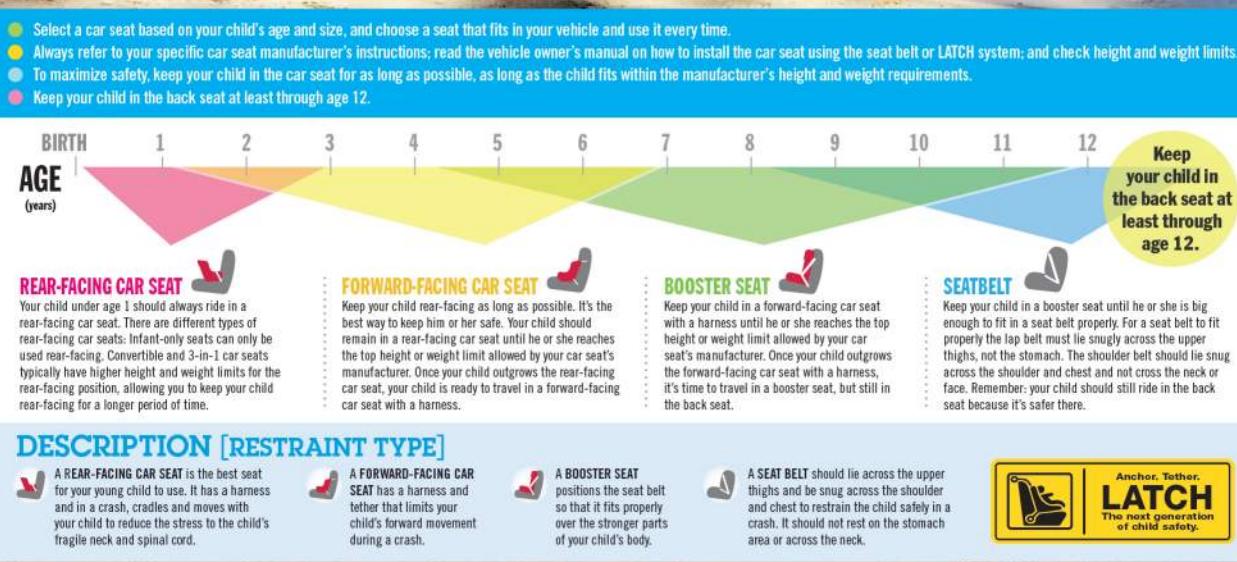
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, hereby gives notice that CPA is applying for a USDA Loan for funding of the proposed Rehabilitation of Runway 7/25 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the proposed airport improvement and accept any written comments.

A public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, September 24, 2019** from **6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Saipan Airport Fire Station.

Persons wishing to provide comments but who are unable to attend the public hearing may drop their comments to the CPA Administration Office, attention to CPA's Executive Director, Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio, second floor arrival building, mail them to P.O. Box 501055, Saipan MP 96950, fax to (670) 234-5962 or email them to cpa.admin@pticom.com by no later than **September 30, 2019**.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: September 12, 2019



KCHC to open community health center on Tinian

The Kagman Community Health Center's grant application to open a community health center on Tinian has been approved.

Last Thursday, it was learned that the KCHC was awarded a \$650,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Earlier in January, the Health Resources & Services Administration issued a notice of funding opportunity for Health Center Program New Access Points. It was rumored that over 850 applications were submitted. The applications came from all over the United States, including a couple from the U.S. affiliated Pacific island jurisdictions.

From all of the applications submitted, HRSA awarded \$50,050,000 to 77 health centers, each receiving \$650,000, to expand access to affordable, accessible, quality, and cost-effective health care services.

KCHC has four months to start providing services.

In a statement Friday, it said that KCHC board chair Velma Palacios wants to recognize and thank the team that worked on the grant application, which included Nutrition Assistance Program committee chair Matthew Gregory, KCHC chief executive officer Vince Castro, Arielle Buyum, Arley Long, Norma Borja, Frances Santos, and Crystal Deleon Guerrero.

"Also special thanks to Rose Lazaro and Mary Ann Mendiola of Tinian. The board chair would also like to thank Mayor Edwin Aldan of Tinian for his support and looks forward to working with the Tinian community to provide access to primary health services to the island. It has always been part of the KCHC board's strategic plan to expand its reach throughout the CNMI to serve our community due to the limited access to health care services," the statement added.

KCHC will be providing details on the project as it progresses. (PR)

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2019 GREEN GALA

The 2019 Green Gala was held Friday at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan. The Green Gala is a fundraising event organized by the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance to fund its many environmental programs that raise awareness among the island community on the protection and preservation of its natural resources.

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Bill for possible more shooting galleries withdrawn

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has returned to the committee a bill that would possibly increase the number of shooting galleries in the CNMI, soon after the bill's author asked the House to refer the legislation back to the committee.

At the Sept. 6 House session, Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) asked that his bill, House Bill 21-54, be moved back to the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, on the heels of recent gun violence incidents in the U.S.

mainland.

"I respectfully request [to have the bill be] sent back to the committee due to all the violence that has been going around in the country, and I have been getting many calls from the community to hold off on the bill because it is becoming unsafe," Yumul said. "As author of the bill, I personally ask that we send [the bill] back to the committee."

Yumul's request was granted after the House voted unanimously to send it back to the committee through a voice vote and with no discussion.

The legislation ultimately

seeks to discourage discharging firearms in unregulated properties within the CNMI by increasing the number of shooting galleries and shooting ranges to act as a place to safely discharge them for practice.

H.B. 21-54 would hold local delegations responsible with determining the number of shooting ranges and galleries allowed per island through local laws, along with stricter regulations such as the installation of "high definition closed-circuit television cameras" covering public premises as well as requiring

shooting galleries and ranges to submit plans to the Department of Public Safety, the licensing body.

Additional restrictions and regulations include limiting shooting ranges or shooting galleries to no more than 20 booths; having range safety officer or basic firearms instructor certified by the National Rifle Association to supervise the day-to-day operations and carry a company-owned, un-chambered sidearm in a holster while working; allowing only the use of firearms and ammunition registered for each shooting gallery and range; and allowing all licensed shooting galleries and ranges to make available for rent all legal firearms and ammunition in the CNMI regardless on the type, caliber, and quantity in their inventory, among several other additional restrictions and regulations.

Currently, there is one shooting gallery, one shooting range, and one pistol range on Saipan; one shooting range on Tinian; and no shooting galleries or shooting ranges on Rota.

The Marianas Visitors Authority and Saipan Chamber of Commerce have supported the bill; former governor Benigno R. Fitial also expressed support for the bill with some minor amendments.

'Let's talk about suicide'

In a bid to break the stigma on suicide in the CNMI, particularly among the youth, the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program is hosting a series of mental health fairs in schools across Saipan this September, and on Rota and Tinian in October.

First stop is at Dandan Middle School today, from 8:30 to 11:30am.

Bringing mental health fairs to middle and high schools, said Ana Ada, who is the Youth Suicide Prevention Program project director at the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program, will teach the youth about having access to their services and to other organizations that could help them.

"Suicide is really preventable. We just have to open our doors. We go out and really talk to the kids," Ada said. "We have serviced 116 kids, and every day, we get some referrals."

Since starting on the island in March 2018, the GLS Youth Suicide Prevention Program has provided services to 116 individuals between the ages of 10-24, who have had thoughts of suicide or made an attempt to kill oneself.

The CNMI Office of Youth Affairs, as part of these mental health fairs, will be hosting a pledge booth at these fairs.

The "Tell Me" pledge is a nationwide campaign where everybody in the community can pledge to start talking about suicide. For schools, Youth Affairs would have a booth where students could take the pledge to start talking about suicide, so that they can be provided help if they need it.

"We want to kill the stigma, that it's a taboo to speak about suicide. We want to help the youth to be able to speak about how they feel," Sablan said. "We want to show unity, and that among schools, there are students that are taking this pledge to help stop suicide in the CNMI."

"If you think you know somebody, or you think somebody else in your peer group, your friend is showing signs of suicide or might be suicidal, we want our youth to be able to ask them directly, so that they can talk about it, they can get the help they need."

The mental health fair set schedules are as follows: Sept. 18, Wednesday, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, 8:30-11:30am; Sept. 20, Friday, Saipan Southern High School, 12:30-3:30pm (will include students from Hopwood Middle School); and Sept. 27, Tanapag Middle School, 8:30-11:30am. (Iva Maurin)

SUPPORTING SCS

Saipan Community School thanks Evergreen Learning for its financial contributions and support for the school. From left: SCS accountant Agnes Salazar, Evergreen administrator Esther Niedo, SCS principal/superintendent Amanda Allen Dunn, Early Learning/mentor coach Russelle Mae Marquez, and Quality Rating and Improvement System assessor/technical assistance specialist Erlaine Evangelista.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-033

REQUEST FOR FEE PROPOSAL FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from professional Archaeologist who meets U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan to prepare information, data, and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review with aim of completing Section 106 Review and generating archaeological expectations necessary for the proposed CUC waterline and sewerline projects proposed for FY 19. The selected consultant shall provide necessary assessment within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the proposed waterline and sewerline installation satisfactory to the CUC, United States Environmental Protection Agency and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-033, Request for Fee Proposal for Archaeological Services" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 6, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Engineer for Water Division at email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAM
Purchasing Administrator

NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Do you believe in ending violence in the CNMI? Are you a self-starting and motivated individual? NMCADSV is looking for a new team member! Read on to find out how you can be part of this amazing movement!

Minimum Qualifications:

An agreement with NMCADSV's philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
High School Diploma or Equivalent
Experience providing clerical and administrative support
Demonstrated abilities in verbal and written communication
Proficiency in MS Word and Excel
Flexible Schedule (May be occasionally required to work evenings and weekends)
Must be able to travel within the CNMI and the to the U.S. Mainland

Extra consideration will be given for the following:

One (1) year documented experience/work with non-profit and/or charitable organizations
Own transportation with a valid driver's license, insurance and registration

For a full list of duties, please stop by the NMCADSV office or email info@endviolencenmi.org
No phone inquiries, please.

Classification & Salary Range: Full-time, Non-Exempt, 40 hours per week, \$10.00/hr. ~ \$14.00/hr. (based on experience and qualifications)

Application Deadline and Submission Information:
Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 20, 2019.

If submitting certificates and awards, please provide a list only. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Applications can be submitted via email to info@endviolencenmi.org, delivered to NMCADSV's office (**between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**) at the Marina Heights I Building, Suite 206, or mailed to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma(s) or equivalent, Police Clearance, and a list of references.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice and Grant # G-1801MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

\$9.2M road and dock project breaks ground in Palau

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Doug Domenech, the U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary, met Wednesday with Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr. in Palau to break ground on a road and dock project worth \$9,207,000 that was provided under the recently renewed Palau Compact Review Agreement.

Domenech also presented \$300,000 to Remengesau in support of the 7th Our Ocean Conference that Palau will host in 2020.

"It was an honor to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony with President Remengesau for these important road and dock improvement projects. The United States-Palau relationship under the Compact of Free Association continues to provide positive impacts for the people of Palau," said Domenech. "The United States is also pleased to support Palau as it prepares to host a large gathering of nation states, civil society/non-government organizations, youth, and private sector stakeholders in Palau for the 7th Our Oceans Conference. This high-profile international assembly has great potential to bolster future opportunities for Pa-



Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and deputy administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, left, is joined by, from left, Palau President Tommy Remengesau, Jr., U.S. Ambassador to Palau Amy Hyatt, and assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Doug Domenech

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

lau and I wish them great success."

Domenech is also in the Republic of Palau this week to co-chair the 42nd Annual U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting with Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration. They are accompanied by U.S. Geological Survey director Jim Reilly who will be a featured speaker at the Coral Reef Task Force meetings. More information on this meeting is available at <https://www.coralreef.gov/>. (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 19-CCC-137**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

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COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWARD DELEON GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CCC

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Upcoming checkpoints

The CNMI Department of Public Safety will be conducting a total of four separate occupant protection/child restraint checkpoints on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019, and Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019.

Tomorrow, the first checkpoint will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose to Isa Drive, San Vicente, from 8am to 9:30am.

The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose, from 4pm to 5:15pm.

On Thursday, the first checkpoint will be on Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, from 8:15am to 9:30am.

The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau, from 4:30pm to 5:45pm.

The purpose of the checkpoints are to promote public safety while increasing the awareness of the dangers of not using a vehicle's occupant protection system as well as child restraints systems while driving on the islands' roads. Locations of these checkpoints were pre-determined based on the number of auto accidents in these areas. (PR)



**Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office**

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING DESIGN,
FACILITIES MASTER PLANNING, AND
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

NMC RQS 19-001

Northern Marianas College (NMC) is soliciting for interested firms "Qualifications Statement" for Architectural/Engineering services. The Statements of Qualification is due not later than 10:00am on September 27, 2019, Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg O, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

The requests for "Statement of Qualification (RQS)" Packet are available at NMC, Procurement Office commencing Monday at 10:00am, August 26, 2019. No fee is required for obtaining the RQS packets.

Pre-submittal conference is scheduled for Friday, 10:00am on September 13, 2019 at NMC Conference Room, Building P.

This Request for Statement of Qualification under Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available for this procurement. Interested firms/individuals located outside of the CNMI may request for the RQS packet by e-mail address to Anita Camacho at email anita.camacho@marianas.edu.

NMC reserves the right to reject any or all statement of professional qualification for any reason if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement Management Office

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges



PACIFICA INSURANCE 45TH ANNIVERSARY GIVEAWAY

To mark its 45th anniversary, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is giving away free car service maintenance gift certificates to forty-five lucky winners throughout 2019. Pacifica Insurance marketing coordinator, Samantha Sikayun, right, presents prize winners, Jesus Lizama, left, and Trinidad Lizama, center, with the car service gift certificate. The Lizamas will be entitled to the Gold Service package at Joeten Motor Co., which includes free oil change, adjustment of tire pressure, 28 multi-point inspections, and other services. For more information about this car service giveaway log on to www.pacificains.com/45years.

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

It was only yesterday: How to remember the 9/11 attacks, 18 years later



The Tribute in Light rises above the lower Manhattan skyline, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019 in New York. AP

A generation of young adults has a hazy understanding of Sept. 11, 2001. In the service of national memory, this is our attempt to set down what happened on that day and in its aftermath.

A small band of fanatical terrorists dealt this, the nation's largest city, a stiff punch to the gut, murdering almost 3,000 people almost instantly.

The attacks throttled our economy. They rattled our sense of safety. They bruised this city's soul.

The United States was forced to reckon with the sudden realization that people crazed by Islamic radicalism, by a cold and backward vision for the planet, marked this messy and pluralistic republic for death simply because of what we represent.

From throughout five boroughs and 50 states, samaritans descended on the place, now called Ground Zero, where physical wreckage and human remains commingled.

On that smoldering pile, in that solemn resting place, those firefighters and police officers and iron workers and volunteers labored tirelessly, rescuing who they could, recovering what could be recovered.

They walked into the rubble to help and emerged as heroes. They also emerged with afflictions that would plague their lives. The totals killed slowly by these ailments may soon outnumber those lives violently ended on that day of chaos and carnage.

In the wake of the mass murders, the country looked as if for the first time at shoring up every vulnerability to stop radical jihadists from harming us again.

Young men and women went overseas, on orders of presidents, to try to cripple and kill the enemy in foreign lands. They went to Afghanistan, now America's longest war, where 2,437 U.S. service men and women have died. They went to Iraq to fight a war barely connected to that terror threat but sold as an essential extension of it. There, 4,574 countrymen and women have died.

It was only yesterday. It was so long ago.

(c)2019 New York Daily News



In war, time is less expensive than human life

The drama leading up to and surrounding the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks was an unfortunate distraction. President Trump invited the Taliban to meet at Camp David for "peace talks"—against the wishes of the democratically elected government in Afghanistan and Trump's own national security adviser, John Bolton. The talks were canceled after a Taliban strike that killed one American. Bolton's job was canceled when he declined to defend the president's bad decision to invite the Taliban in the first place.

But behind the shouting there is a serious debate over what we should do about our presence in Afghanistan. One argument for pulling out is less serious than it appears at first blush: The war has gone on too long.

In the world of TV punditry, the claim that this is "America's longest war" often substitutes for an argument. It's what people mean when they say that America must stop engaging in "endless wars." Trump has said, "Great nations do not fight endless wars."

A pedant might note that history is replete with conflicts that lasted far longer. The Dutch-Sicily war lasted 335 years. Wars between England and France spanned more than seven centuries. The Islamic conquest of Afghanistan itself went on for more than two centuries. In fact, according to an accounting by the Congressional Research Service, America's longest state of war—in terms of recognized military service—wasn't with Afghans but with Native Americans. The American Indian Wars lasted from 1817 to 1898.

The more relevant objection is that the length of a war isn't necessarily the most important metric. This is a point Trump has made himself: "As I've said, and I'll say it any number of times—and this is not using nuclear—we could win that war in a week if we wanted to fight it, but I'm not looking to kill 10 million people."

That's an exaggeration, but let's assume Trump is correct. Most reasonable people can see how saving time at the expense of near-genocidal bloodshed isn't a desirable trade-off. Time is by no means a costless resource, but given the alternatives, it's often the best choice.

In a sense, we've been in a state of war with North Korea for nearly 70 years. We never signed a peace treaty, and we left troops on the Korean Peninsula to enforce an armistice. In terms of time, that's a big expense, but it's cheap when measured in the more important currency of human life. Similarly, the Cold War was not simply a metaphorical war. We spent American blood and treasure for nearly half a century containing the So-

By JONAH GOLDBERG

Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.



viet Union around the globe. But we opted not to have a direct confrontation because we thought biding our time was a better alternative than a direct confrontation costing millions of lives.

In other words: Does it really matter how long the war in Afghanistan has gone on if it's still necessary to be there? If it's necessary, time is irrelevant. And if it's unnecessary, time is also irrelevant.

Imagine firefighters spending months battling an inferno in Yellowstone. At what point would you say, "This has gone on too long, it's time to call it quits"?

If you have cancer, you might stop receiving treatment if there's no hope. But, "You've been fighting cancer for a long time now, let's end this endless war" isn't a great argument absent other considerations.

Many compare Afghanistan to the Vietnam War, which until recently held the title of America's longest war. And the comparison has some merit in terms of the mission creep, local corruption and the political dilemma of pulling out of a war without a clear victor (though American fatalities in Afghanistan have been a fraction of what they were in Vietnam). The major difference is that there was little chance of the North Vietnamese using their victory to mount attacks on the American homeland.

The Taliban has never recognized the legitimacy of the Afghan government, and it has never truly separated from al-Qaeda—in part because the two groups are politically, economically and ideologically intertwined. Even if it were to break with al-Qaeda, there's the vexing problem that the Taliban can't be trusted.

Fully pulling out of Afghanistan would solve one problem: our understandable impatience with a war. But it wouldn't solve the problem that prompted us to send troops there in the first place: the Taliban's capacity to harbor and support terrorists bent on killing Americans.

Problems without solutions aren't problems; they're facts, even if you put a clock on them.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Mom who lost her son in 9/11 attacks is now a model for us all to follow

By MARIA PANARITIS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

In the sunny sparkle of a quiet Bucks County memorial garden, there had just been talk of darkness. Of the fear that the memories of the 9/11 terrorist attacks that killed 18 beloved community members 18 years ago were fading into the history books like Pearl Harbor, the Kennedy assassination, and other great national tragedies. But Judi Reiss sat through it all as a portrait of equanimity.

Then a firefighter rang a bell. And grief poured out as it does. Still.

A Lower Makefield Township firefighter rang a haunting bell during a remembrance ceremony at the garden that Judi, through incredible sadness, had helped build. He rang the bell at the exact time that one of two terrorist-comandeered jetliners crashed into the World Trade Center in 2001. Judi's son died at 23 inside one of those two collapsed towers. Somehow, his mother pulled herself out of extreme depression, became a local elected official, then a county one, and now was running as a Democrat to unseat Republican Brian Fitzpatrick from Congress next year.

But that bell. It shook you like a wailing lamb. Judi, from a white folding chair at the Garden of Reflection, could not bear it, either. She tilted her head back, closed her eyes and grimaced. She opened her mouth as though exhaling, though it could also have been a mute scream. She cried.

There it was: Maternal sorrow momentarily as bottomless as it was on that cloudless, shattering morning in Manhattan on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I'm a woman," Judi had said with utter control during the ceremony minutes earlier, "that tends to wear many hats. But today, the one I wear is Joshua Reiss' mother."

Indeed, when State Sen. Steve Santarsiero named the elected officials present for the annual ritual, he conspicuously failed to mention Judi, in a blue suit seated behind him as a mourner.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A sad loss for education in our community

As a practitioner and a leader in education, I am very saddened by the resignation of Glenn Muña as the commissioner of the CNMI Public School System. And while it is neither my place nor my disposition to pass judgment on what may or may not have happened to cause his resignation, as a concerned citizen and an empathetic colleague of all education professionals in our community, I must share what I think and how I feel.

I am no stranger to public education. I am a former public school teacher and a former voting member of the CNMI Board of Education. My brother and many of my relatives teach and work in our public schools. And my own daughter is a proud Kingfisher at the oldest public school on island, William S. Reyes Elementary School. So I know firsthand the value of public education. And when it comes to public education, I believe the single most important thing that students and servants in our public schools need is an advocate. And that's what Glenn has always been.

Whether as a teacher, an administrator, or as a leader, Glenn has always been there to help his students and his colleagues. When he agreed to serve as commissioner, he made many sacrifices—turning down lucrative job offers elsewhere, not moving with his daughter to college, taking time away from his family, and even compromising his own health. He made those sacrifices because he believes in our students and in our educators.

On a personal level, I have had the privilege of working with Glenn for over a decade. In that time, I have come to deeply

Who's next

That's the title of an LP put out by the rock 'n roll band, The Who, back in 1971. I guess the president's firing of John Bolton, who he highly praised when Bolton took the job, brought this question to mind as the Trump administration continues its chaotic "revolving door" policy of running things (and the country) into the ground. Oh, and you can add, What's Next, to the list!

Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC



Judi Reiss touches her son Joshua Scott Reiss' name, which is etched into the glass railing surrounding the twin fountains in the 9/11 Memorial Park in Lower Makefield, on Aug. 27, 2008. Joshua died in the 9/11 World Trade Center attack.

CLEM MURRAY/PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/TNS

She is county prothonotary ever since a 2017 win that made history in largely Republican-controlled Bucks County. Before that, the retired former Trenton schoolteacher had worked for years alongside another mother who lost her son on 9/11, the late Grace Godshalk, a Republican.

Together, Grace and Judi had helped build this garden—Re-

publican and Democrat fused in maternal grief and focused on the greater good, arm in arm. At Grace's urging and their partisan differences notwithstanding, they served on Lower Makefield's Board of Supervisors.

Grace, who had lost her 35-year-old son, Bill, in the World Trade Center, died after last year's September ceremony. She was 81. Judi, now 70, is hoping to become a congresswoman next year from the county in Pennsylvania that lost more people to the terror attacks than any other.

"It's hard to believe on some days that it's been 18 years," Judi said from the podium to scores of mourners gathered under a mix of sunny and cloudy skies with a gentle breeze. "Because I can still remember, moment by moment by moment that morning. I can remember getting a phone call, being told to turn on the television. And I can remember the actual fear and horror that I felt."

The message from many who spoke at Wednesday's ceremony was one imploring Americans to be grateful, to care for each other just as the mothers and spouses in Bucks County had cared for each other through grief. It was a message urging that we all, neighbor to neighbor, stare down hatred in favor of peace.

"This year, I didn't have my dear friend Grace Godshalk to help with the plans for today's remembrance," said Tara Bane, who lost her husband, Michael, in the attacks and who had been working with Grace and Judi to help put on the annual remembrance in recent years.

She urged us to live for today. To expect nothing guaranteed for tomorrow. But also, she revealed the ache that love forces into us as a reminder that we loved the people taken from us.

"I'm sad to be here today without her," Tara said of Grace. "But now she's been reunited with her son Bill. And I can see her smile on her face to see him again, to be with him. In fact, many of us can't wait for that day, to be reunited with our loved ones who were taken from us suddenly on 9/11."

This fountain inspired by the felled Twin Towers drew mourners to memorial markers bearing the names of all 18 Bucks County residents who died in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, as well as the nearly 3,000 others who died that day.

Judi has channeled that into an embrace of public service. She has taken her son's death and used it as "fuel" to first lift her from paralytic grief in the aftermath of 9/11 and now to mold our communities into the compassionate places that heal us all when we're down.

"I'm so empowered to see that through such hardship," 29-year-old Jenn Reiss Sillman, the youngest of five Reiss children, told me, "my mother turned it around."

There are many lessons for us here. We can be better than the angry, divided nation we have become. Our better angels can win. That is thanks to better angels such as Judi and, perhaps now reunited with her son, dear Grace, too.

Seeking American history professionals

CNMI high schools are in need of professionals who are certified or majored in American history to appear as guest speakers to inform and inspire students in their study of the growth of our nation, from the development of the Declaration of Independence up to the present day. If you are certified or have majored in American history, and would like to inspire the next generation, we would like to have you share your expertise and passion for American history. Please complete this Google form: <https://bit.ly/2kHQ4PY>, so that teachers will be able to contact you.

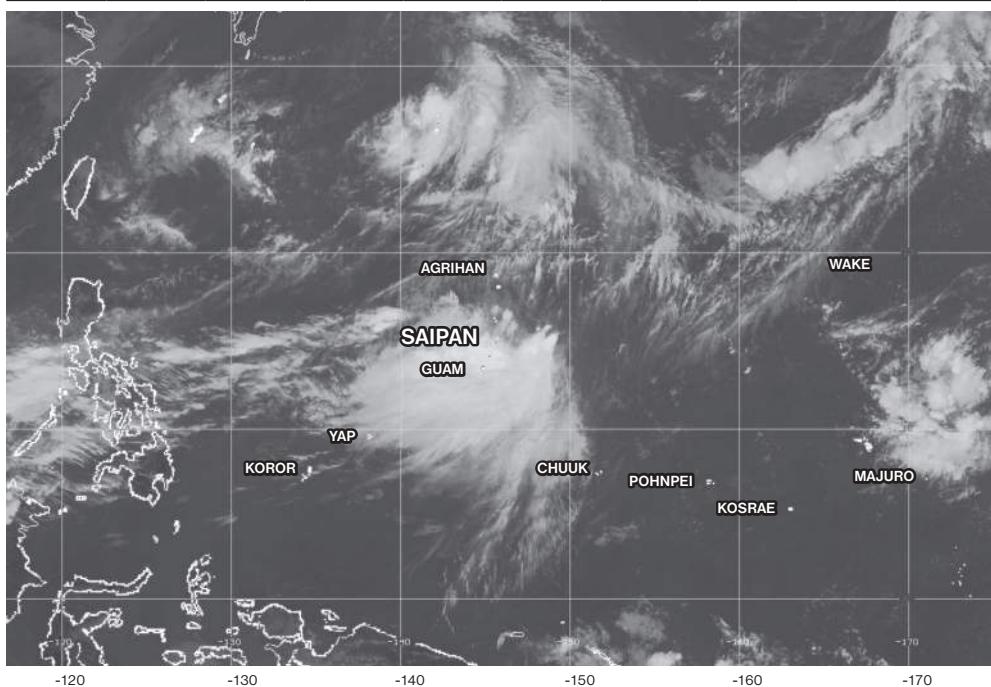
Claudia Palacios, MSCIN
Education Specialist
Social Studies Program
Office of Curriculum & Instruction
CNMI Public School System



The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy. Breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
86°	78°	84°	77°	84°
77°	84°	77°	84°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 10:58 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam and CNMI forecast was updated today to increase showers to numerous over the region. Numerous showers with periods of locally heavy rain have fallen over the islands. 3.47 inches of rain was measured here at the WFO from the last 6 hours, with more showers and thunderstorms inbound from the WNW. The Flash Flood Watch may be upgraded to a warning if inbound heavy showers hold together.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	82° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 48°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	79° / 57°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	91° / 82°	
Honolulu	Showers	88° / 79°	
London	Showers	70° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Melbourne	Sunny	61° / 43°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	85° / 66°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	90° / 72°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	84° / 57°	
Busan	Windy	79° / 72°	
Rome	Sunny	88° / 63°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	84° / 70°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	82° / 64°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	79° / 68°	
Tokyo	Showers	84° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	93° / 72°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:54 AM	LOW TIDE	0.66	
8:37 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.83	
3:06 PM	LOW TIDE	0.47	
9:02 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:28 AM	7:47 PM
Tuesday	-	8:14 AM	8:23 PM
Wednesday	-	9:02 AM	9:02 PM
Thursday	-	9:52 AM	9:43 PM
Friday	-	10:43 AM	10:27 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1,

'Part of NMC's mission is to help put people in jobs'

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With so many struggling to land a job, the Northern Marianas College sees it as part of its mission to help people find their spot in the workplace.

Polly DLG Masga, NMC's director of Human Resources, stressed this during the "Dress for Success" event organized by the Women's Affairs Office last Sept. 6 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

in Susupe.

And part of that mission is to empower and let people know what the tools are—what human resources professional look for when someone is for a job, Masga said, adding that it is important to provide people wanting to enter the workforce with tips to succeed.

"Being part of the college, our main mission is to be the vehicle to put people in the workforce," she said. That included NMC participating in

the "Dress for Success" event as a means to help women on the island get a career.

Throughout her 18 years as a human resource professional, Masga has seen job disasters like applications not being completed, résumés not being turned in, and even applicants not presenting themselves well during the interview.

Aside from academic programs, NMC also organizes career fairs and training programs for the community.

"People would ask questions like, 'How can I identify what my weaknesses are, what my strength is?' and I coach them. A lot of it is really self-reflection. They have to reflect on who they are as an individual," Masga said.

NMC career manager Neda C. Deleon Guerrero said they also teach people to explore exercises and tools to help them understand their interests, values, and skills for continuing education and job search.

"We want to empower everybody to believe in themselves—that they really can do

what they dream to do. We have a lot of creativity on the island that could open the door for a career," Deleon Guerrero said.

Aside from outreach programs, NMC also offers Adult Basic Education that focuses on workforce preparation for people preparing to enter the workforce, including career planning and career skills academy.

5 businesses awarded nearly a billion worth of projects

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM— Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded Friday a \$990 million indefinite-delivery indefinite-quantity multiple award design-build construction contract to five businesses for work on projects in Guam and other areas under the cognizance of the Pacific area of responsibility.

Black Construction - Tutor Perini JV of Harmon, Guam; Caddell-Nan a joint venture of Montgomery, Ala.; Core Tech-HDCC-Kajima, LLC of Tamuning, Guam; Gilbane SMCC ECC LLC of Concord, Calif.; and Hensel Phelps Construction Co. of Honolulu, Hawaii were each awarded a portion of the DBMACC.

"The Navy is pleased with this contract award as it further enables military readiness and our support to the warfighter in Guam and the region," said NAVFAC Marianas executive officer, Cmdr. Jacob Segalla. "This DBMACC will improve our speed, agility and flexibility to support critical facilities and engineering requirements of the military."

Gilbane SMCC ECC LLC is being awarded the initial task order at \$22.9 million for the design and construction of a low-rise combined

dining and high-intensity tactical training facility for the Aviation Combat Element at Andersen Air Force Base, Joint Region Marianas, Guam. Work for this task order is expected to be completed by April 2022.

All work on this contract will be performed primarily within the NAVFAC Pacific AOR, which includes Guam, the CNMI, Hawaii and other areas in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

The work to be performed provides new construction, renovation, and minor construction and may include but not limited to: barracks/dormitories; administrative facilities; communication facilities; educational facilities; medical/dental hospital facilities; dining facilities; industrial facilities; warehouse facilities; ranges, operational/training facilities, roads, streets, bridges, site utilities/infrastructure, dredging, and aviation facilities (including hangars and aprons) and other base development facilities.

The term of this contract is not to exceed 60 months, with an expected completion date of September 2024. The contract was competitively procured via the Navy Electronic Commerce Online website with eight proposals received. (USN)

Water service interruption on Wednesday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Capital Hill 1200 Block, 1300 Block, Wireless Ridge, Eggi Drive, Marshall Loop and for customers along Capital Hill Isa Drive to the Kagman Mobil gas station on Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 8:30am to 3:30pm.

Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The purpose of the scheduled water service interruption is to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water operations personnel to perform repairs on a damaged main



Polly DLG Masga, director of Human Resources at the Northern Marianas College, conducts a "Let's Get You Hired" presentation at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last Sept. 6 to help equip people wanting to enter the workforce with skills and knowledge they could use for a job.

Working to improve services for CNMI veterans

The CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs recently met with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs officials in Honolulu to discuss collaborations on improving health care services for veterans, service members, reservists, and their families on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

According to CNMI VA executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, the meeting with the Honolulu VA officials was a productive one that underscored the unique needs of CNMI veterans.

"Under Gov. Torres and Lt. Gov. Palacios' leadership, the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs is committed to providing veterans and their families the support that's long overdue. They have earned and deserve quality care and benefits through their service to our country. Over the last several months, we have been continuously seeking better access and services through partnerships with our Honolulu partners. These meetings are significant because our administration is looking to establish a closer and consistent dialogue with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs directly so that our local veterans are heard."

It is imperative that we continue to listen and learn directly from our veterans," Iakopo said.

Iakopo also said that they talked about having health care professionals visit the CNMI more regularly to treat CNMI veterans, service members, and their families. Future visits by these health care professionals will be provided at a later date. He reit-

erated the CNMI's request for assistance with Veterans ID Cards, especially for veterans on Tinian and Rota.

"We also requested that visiting health care professionals must be aware of the patient's military history and be able to recognize suicide-risk factors, regardless of age. Health care professionals must be able to address physical safety concerns and emotional health of



CNMI Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, center, meets with, left to right, Tri-West Pacific regional director Karl Kiyokawa; VA Pacific Islands Health Care System director Jennifer Gutowski; VA Honolulu regional office director Sergio Chao; VA Honolulu regional office program analyst Aiko Shibuya; and executive assistant to VA director/facility strategic planner Craig Oswald.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Coast Guard cutters return after monthlong tour in Samoa

HONOLULU—The crews of two Coast Guard cutters, the *Walnut* and *Joseph Gerczak*, returned to Honolulu at the end of August following a successful deployment to Samoa and the U.S. territory of American Samoa, where they conducted operations to counter illegal fishing and strengthen relations with allies and partner nations.

"Our Coast Guard crews demonstrated superior performance during intense operations over the past month in support of the government of Samoa and within the U.S. territory of American Samoa," said Rear Adm. Kevin Lunday, commander, U.S. Coast Guard 14th District. "Working with Australia and New Zealand, we supported the government of Samoa by embarking Samoan law enforcement shipriders on a Coast Guard cutter to patrol their exclusive economic zone and ensure Samoan sovereignty. We also patrolled the U.S. EEZ around American Samoa to protect U.S. sovereignty. Our crews' local engagements in Samoa and American Samoa reinforced our enduring shared values and Polynesian heritage, and advanced U.S. strategic interests in Oceania."

The operation, named "Aiga," the Samoan word for family, was first announced by U.S. Coast Guard commandant Adm. Karl Schultz in a July interview describing the Coast Guard expansion of its permanent presence and effectiveness in the region through expeditionary capabilities, doubling down in Oceania.

The U.S. employs 11 bilateral shiprider agreements with Pacific Island Forum nations throughout Oceania to help them counter illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing within their 200 nautical mile EEZ. Again, this operation was undertaken in coordination with Australia and New Zealand as Samoa awaits the delivery of its new, highly capable patrol boats from Australia later this year.

During the busy monthlong deployment, the *Walnut* crew conducted numerous fishing vessel boardings with officers from the Samoan Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the Samoan EEZ. The *Walnut* also carried Australian Fisheries Management Authority officers and a Chinese linguist from the U.S. Marine Corps. They further conducted maritime exercises with the Royal New Zealand Navy ship HMNZS *Otago* and Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS *Choules*.

The *Walnut* crew engendered goodwill by hosting a reception with the U.S. Embassy for the acting prime minister of Samoa and senior Samoan government officials. The *Walnut* team also visited, read to, and played games with students at the Lufilufi Primary School in Apia. During a second port call, crews from *Walnut* and *Joseph Gerczak* attended sports practices with the Samoan Junior National Golf Team and American Gridiron football club. Both ships complement also

hosted shipboard tours for dignitaries, a maritime academy, and the public.

"The crew felt extremely rewarded to have these opportunities, and we look forward to returning to Samoa and American Samoa, hopefully soon," said Jasnoch.

In support of strong maritime commerce and maritime transportation system, the *Walnut* crew installed a new Automatic Identification System transmitter in American Samoa designed to notify mariners of the location of navigational hazards within the harbor if the physical aid marking the hazard is damaged or not working properly. The crew also recovered a sunken buoy in Pago Pago and replaced it with a new one to ensure safe navigation for mariners transiting in and out of the U.S. strategic deepwater port.

The *Joseph Gerczak* set a new mark for the expeditionary deployment of the 154-

foot fast response cutters by traveling between Honolulu and American Samoa, 2,300 miles in nine days, without refueling en route.

During the deployment, the *Joseph Gerczak* crew also conducted professional exchanges with the New Zealand navy crew of *Otago*.

"The exchange with the *Otago* crew was a great opportunity to share best practices and hear their knowledge of this area including Samoa and the high-seas pocket that we do not frequently patrol," said Lt. James Provost, commanding officer, *Joseph Gerczak*. "It was a great experience to see how another nation's navy operates and the similarities and differences between us."

The *Joseph Gerczak* crew conducted joint boardings in the U.S. EEZ around American Samoa with U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration enforcement officers and the American

Samoa Marine Police. Later, the *Joseph Gerczak* joined up with *Walnut* in Apia, Samoa to participate in community relations events on behalf of the U.S. Embassy. The *Joseph Gerczak* also assisted local responders with search and rescue efforts for two teenagers swept out from shore by high swells off the main island of Tutuila. Despite the best search efforts by all involved, the teens remain missing. All of these efforts had a profound impact on the crew.

"It's been a long patrol, but getting out to Samoa, meeting some of the locals and getting to take part in operations was well worth the trip," said *Joseph Gerczak* fireman Ty Kamiyama. "It's good to know that we have laid a foundation to continue building strong relations with the Samoan community."

"This patrol was an amazing experience to see firsthand just what our asset is capable

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SARA MUIR



Residents of Apia tour the USCGC *Walnut* in Apia, Samoa last Aug. 12, 2019. The *Walnut* crew was in Samoa as part of Operation Aiga. Photo courtesy U.S. Embassy Samoa.



of," said *Joseph Gerczak* Petty Officer 3rd Class Scott Sabatini. "I thought getting to see the culture in Samoa was amazing. I got to go out with several other crewmembers to teach local youth about American football. It was such an enriching and rewarding time for all of us."

The U.S. and its allies are trusted partners in Oceania. Operation Aiga is one of several operations conducted by the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, and France as part of the Pacific Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group (Pacific QUAD) in support of PIF countries. The Pacific QUAD has historically supported PIF countries in their efforts to combat illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing in their exclusive economic zones. This year, the Pacific QUAD expanded the scope of its activities to encompass the broad range of maritime security concerns expressed by the PIF in the 2018 Boe Declaration.

The *Walnut* is a 225-foot Juniper class seagoing buoy tender responsible for maintaining aids to navigation, performing maritime law enforcement, port, and coastal security, search and rescue and environmental protection. Designed to patrol coastal regions, the *Joseph Gerczak* is a 154-foot Sentinel class fast response cutter and one of the newest patrol boats in the fleet to replace the 1980s-era 110-foot Island-class patrol boats. Both vessels call Honolulu their homeport. (USCG)

Business

GUAM—United Airlines announced the winners of its 14th Annual United Plane Pull—“Towing the Line to Save Lives” last Sept 14, 2019, at the United hangar in Tiyan.

Thirty-two teams registered to tow the line in the fight against cancer. This year’s event raised more than \$20,000, which directly and equally benefitted Plane Pull beneficiaries American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care. The annual Plane Pull event, which is organized and sponsored by United employees, has attracted more than 12,000 participants throughout the past 14 years and has raised close to \$360,000 for local charities.

This year, 20 media representatives from 12 different outlets joined forces to tow the line to save lives for the first time. Together, the media team raised more than \$1,250 to contribute to the cause.

Sam Shinohara, United’s managing director of airport operations Asia/Pacific said, “Plane Pull brings the best of our community together to raise funds for the fight against cancer. I’d like to thank each of the teams who came out strong in support of our Cancer Warriors and Survivors, American Cancer Society and

Guam Cancer Care. We’re also proud to have our media partners participate in this year’s event and we hope to continue to have a media team for future events. Plane Pull continues to grow through the generosity and commitment of our island community. Thank you to our Plane Pull committee and the nearly 1,000 United employees who organized and put on this incredible event”

Teams competed to pull a United Boeing 737 aircraft—129 feet long, 41 feet high and 124 feet wide, weighing a total of 145,000 pounds—12 feet in the fastest time. Two teams claimed the title of 2019 United Plane Pull Champion. Leo Palace/Team Chikara won the men’s division and The Giving Tree Preschool/Team #TGT took the win in the co-ed division. Leo Palace/Team Chikara earned the 2019 Team Spirit Award and The Guam Daily Post/Team Just Plane Awesome earned the 2019 Media Spirit Award.

Results for the Men’s Division

1st Place: LeoPalace Re-



sort/Team Chikara with a time of 5.17 seconds

2nd Place: Dusit Thani Guam Resort/Team DTGU with a time of 5.24 seconds

3rd Place: Tristar Terminals Guam, Inc./Team Tristar with a time of 5.55 seconds

Results for the Co-Ed Division

1st Place: The Giving Tree Preschool/Team #TGT with a time of 5.35 seconds

2nd Place: LeoPalace Resort/Team Chikara with a time of 5.36 seconds

3rd Place: USO sponsored by Tan Holdings/Team USO with a time of 5.38 seconds

2019 Team Spirit Award Winner

LeoPalace Resort/Team Chikara

2019 Media Spirit Award Winner

The Guam Daily Post/Team Just Plane Awesome

Paula Monk, United’s senior sales manager, Guam and Micronesia said, “Cancer affects all of us in one way or another and we’re very fortunate to have the opportunity to play a role in supporting the American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care. Guam is such a giving community and our annual Plane Pull event is so successful because of the support and generosity of the community and our Guam based employees. We look forward to building on the success and momentum of this year’s event as we look forward to our 15th Annual Plane Pull event in 2020.”

In 2019, United is focusing

more than ever on its commitment to its customers, looking at every aspect of its business to ensure that the carrier keeps customers’ best interests at the heart of its service. In addition to today’s announcement, United recently announced that luxury skincare line Sunday Riley will make products exclusively for United customers to experience in amenity kits, released a re-imagined version of the most downloaded app in the airline industry, introduced ConnectionSaver, a new tool dedicated to improving the experience for customers connecting from one United flight to the next and made DIRECTV free for every passenger on 211 aircraft, offering more than 100 channels on seat back monitors on more than 30,000 seats.

United’s shared purpose is

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 14th Annual United Plane Pull—“Towing the Line to Save Lives” was held last Saturday. Photos shows Team CTSI in action during the 2013 edition of the fundraising event.

“Connecting People. Uniting the World.” We are more focused than ever on our commitment to customers through a series of innovations and improvements designed to help build a great experience: Every customer. Every flight. Every day. Together, United Airlines and United Express operate approximately 4,900 flights a day to 356 airports across five continents. In 2018, United and United Express operated more than 1.7 million flights carrying more than 158 million customers. United is proud to have the world’s most comprehensive route network, including U.S. mainland hubs in Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, New York/Newark, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. United operates 783 mainline aircraft and the airline’s United Express carriers operate 561 regional aircraft. United is a founding member of Star Alliance, which provides service to 193 countries via 27-member airlines. For more information, visit united.com, follow @United on Twitter and Instagram or connect on Facebook. The common stock of United’s parent, United Airlines Holdings, Inc., is traded on the Nasdaq under the symbol “UAL.” (PR)

Saudi Arabia: Drone attacks knocked out half its oil supply

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Yemen’s Houthi rebels launched drone attacks on the world’s largest oil processing facility in Saudi Arabia and a major oil field Saturday, sparking huge fires and halting about half of the supplies from the world’s largest exporter of oil.

The attacks were the latest of many drone assaults on the kingdom’s oil infrastructure in recent weeks, but easily the most damaging. They raise concerns about the global oil supply and likely will further increase tensions across the Persian Gulf amid an escalating crisis between the U.S. and Iran over its unraveling nuclear deal with world powers.

The attacks resulted in “the temporary suspension of production operations” at the Abqaiq oil processing facility and the Khurais oil field, Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said in a statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency. The fires “were controlled,” the statement said, and no workers were injured.

The fires led to the interruption of an estimated 5.7 million barrels in crude

supplies, according to the statement, which said part of that would be offset with stockpiles. The statement said Saudi Aramco, the state-owned oil giant, would provide updated information in the next 48 hours.

The Iranian-backed Houthis, who hold Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, and other territory in the Arab world’s poorest country, took responsibility for the attacks in the war against a Saudi-led coalition that has fought since 2015 to reinstate the internationally recognized Yemeni government. But the U.S. blamed Iran, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeting, “There is no evidence the attacks came from Yemen.”

“Iran has now launched an unprecedented attack on the world’s energy supply,” Pompeo added.

In a short address aired by the Houthi’s Al-Masirah satellite news channel, military spokesman Yahia Sarie said the rebels launched 10 drones after receiving “intelligence” support from those inside the kingdom. He warned that attacks by the rebels would only get worse if the war continues.

GILLETTE, Wyo. (AP)—At two of the world’s biggest coal mines, the finances got so bad that their owner couldn’t even get toilet paper on credit.

Warehouse technician Melissa Worden divvied up what remained of the last case, giving four rolls to each mine and two to the mine supply facility where she worked.

Days later, things got worse.

Mine owner Blackjewel LLC filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on July 1. Worden at first figured the accounts would get settled quickly and vendors of everything from copy paper to parts for house-sized dump trucks would soon be back to doing normal business with the mines.

“The consensus was: In 30 days, we’ll look back on this, and we made it through, and we’ll be up and running, and it’s a fresh start,” she said.

What happened instead has shaken the top coal-producing region in the United States like a charge of mining explosive. Blackjewel furloughed most

of its Wyoming employees and shut down Eagle Butte and Belle Ayr mines, the first idled by hardship since coal mining in the Powder River Basin exploded in the 1970s.

It’s a big hit to the region straddling northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana, where coal has quietly supported the economies of both states for decades and fuels a shrinking number of power plants in 28 states.

Negotiations that could reopen the two Wyoming mines under new ownership—potentially previous owner Bristol, Tennessee-based Contura Energy—are stalled more than two months later. Some 600 employees remain off the job. They lost health insurance coverage in late August.

And doubts are growing about the long-term viability of the region’s coal mines—particularly Eagle Butte and Belle Ayr, the fourth- and sixth-biggest in the U.S. by production, respectively.

“I don’t think we’ll ever be that naive again,” said Worden, 44.

Blackjewel, based in Milton, West Virginia, told its Wyoming employees this week that the mines might be up and running soon and to let the company know if they wanted their jobs back.

Worden said she felt little reassurance. On a break at a part-time electrical contracting job in North Dakota, she wondered if she should accept any offer of full-time work or hold out for her old job.

She’s not the only one questioning long-held assumptions about Powder River Basin coal mines, which produce cleaner-burning coal less expensively than mines in other parts of the U.S. and weren’t widely thought of being at risk despite a push for renewable energy to combat climate change.

But with coal in long-term decline, how the basin might eventually scale down production to a sustainable level has become a big question, said

Workers off the job question future of top US coal region

Rob Godby, director of the Center for Energy Economics and Public Policy at the University of Wyoming.

“The irony here—and it’s really a cruel irony—is everybody is focused on getting these miners back to work. But really the solution to creating a healthy industry is some mines close,” Godby said.

For now, little appears changed in Gillette, a city of 30,000 people at the heart of the basin of rolling grasslands midway between the Black Hills and snowcapped Bighorn Mountains. Tattoo shops are abundant, and big, late-model pickup trucks still cruise the main drag.

This year, however, has been especially tumultuous. Three of the Powder River Basin’s nine producers—Westmoreland Coal, Cloud Peak Energy and Blackjewel—have filed for bankruptcy since March. Two others, Arch Coal and Peabody, have announced they will merge assets in the region.

Nation

Over 2,000 fetal remains found at ex-abortion doctor's home

JOLIET, Ill. (AP)—More than 2,000 medically preserved fetal remains have been found at the Illinois home of a former Indiana abortion clinic doctor who died last week, authorities said.

The Will County Sheriff's Office said in a news release late Friday that an attorney for Dr. Ulrich Klopfer's family contacted the coroner's office Thursday about possible fetal remains being found at the home in an unincorporated part of Will County in northeastern Illinois.

The sheriff's office said authorities found 2,246 preserved fetal remains but there's no evidence medical procedures were performed at the home.

The coroner's office took possession of the remains. An investigation is underway.

A message left Saturday seeking additional comment on the discovery was not returned by the Will County Sheriff's Office investigations department.

Klopfer, who died Sept. 3, was a longtime doctor at an abortion clinic in South Bend, Indiana. It closed after the state revoked the clinic's license in 2015. The Indiana State Department of Health had previously issued complaints against the clinic, accusing it of lacking a registry of patients, policies regarding medical abortion, and a governing body to determine policies.

The state agency also accused

the clinic of failing to document that patients get state-mandated education at least 18 hours before an abortion.



"These sickening reports underscore why the abortion industry must be held to the highest scrutiny," Fichter said in the statement.

A message left Saturday by The Associated Press for a spokesman for Gov. Eric Holcomb asking if Indiana officials would investigate was not immediately returned.

Klopfer's license was suspended by Indiana's Medical Licensing Board in November 2016 after the panel found a number of violations, including a failure to ensure that qualified staff was present when patients

have any connection to abortion operations in Indiana.

Klopfer was no longer practicing by that time, but he told the panel he had never lost a patient in 43 years of doing abortions and that he hoped to eventually re-open his clinics.

In June 2014, Klopfer was charged in St. Joseph County, Indiana, with a misdemeanor for failure to file a timely public report. He was accused of waiting months to report an abortion he provided to a 13-year-old girl in South Bend. That charge was later dropped after Klopfer completed a pre-trial diversion program.

Republican U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Indiana, called the discovery of the fetal remains

ACROSS THE NATION

Detectives: Transgender woman slain, body burned in car

CLEWSITON, Fla. (AP)—Florida sheriff's deputies are investigating the slaying of a transgender woman whose body was found in her burning car. Media reports say the Hendry County Sheriff's Office is investigating the Sept. 4 death of 23-year-old Bee Love Slater in Clewiston, Florida. The Human Rights Campaign says Slater is at least the 18th transgender woman to be killed in 2019. Capt. Susan Harrelle declined to tell the Palm Beach Post how Slater died, saying only the killer or a witness would know that. She said detectives are investigating whether Slater's gender identity was a motive for the slaying. Slater's friend Kenard Wade told WINK-TV that Slater had received threats the night she died and she wanted to leave the Lake Okeechobee area to avoid trouble.

Federal law enforcement began tracking hate crimes against Sikhs in 2015, but many states still do not.

Most Americans know little about the monotheistic faith founded more than 500 years ago in India's northern Punjab region that rejects the caste system and idolatry. The coalition says it is the world's fifth-largest religion with about 25 million adherents worldwide, including about 500,000 in the United States.

Sikhs do not shave or cut their hair, and the men typically wear a turban to protect their long locks. The men's turbans and beards are articles of faith that sometimes make them targets of people who assume they are Muslim.

This image made from a Dec. 1, 2015, video provided by WNDU-TV shows Ulrich Klopfer in South Bend, Ind. AP

"sickening beyond words" in a statement released by her office.

"He was responsible for thousands of abortions in Indiana, and his careless treatment of human remains is an outrage," she said in her statement.

In May, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld an Indiana law requiring the burial or cremation of fetal remains following abortions in the state. That law was signed by Vice President Mike Pence in 2016 when he was Indiana's governor, but it was the subject of legal challenges.

The Indiana State Department of Health, which oversees abortion clinic regulation, has integrated that law's provisions into the agency's existing licensing process.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They decried what they called the agency's racist campaign against immigrants and asylum seekers. A Microsoft spokeswoman says the company closed the store for the rest of the day. The protest comes amid mounting criticism of companies working with ICE. Some of Microsoft's own employees demanded last year that it cancel its data processing contract with ICE. Saturday's march and sit-in was organized by a coalition called Close the Camps NYC.

Police release video of light rail station shooting suspect

SEATTLE (AP)—Seattle police have released video showing a suspect fleeing after a shooting at a downtown light rail station. The video posted to the department's Twitter feed shows the man trying to conceal the gun near his waist as he runs up the stairs toward an exit at the Westlake Station for Link light rail. The escalator going up was out of order. Police say one man was killed and two wounded, one critically, in the shooting Friday night. It took place on a northbound platform inside the station. Witnesses told investigators that the suspect and at least two of the victims may have been in an altercation outside the station beforehand, and that the shooting did not appear to be random. Detectives are asking anyone with information to contact them.

Sikh preaches love 18 years after brother killed over turban

PHOENIX (AP)—Indian Sikh immigrant Rana Singh Sodhi still preaches love and tolerance 18 years after his brother was gunned down in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks by a man who mistook him for a Muslim because of his turban and beard.

"I want there to be more awareness, more peace in the world," said Sodhi, who spent much of the first year after his brother Balbir Singh Sodhi's death speaking at schools and houses of worship. "I believe education is very important for our community. I made a commitment to reach as many people as I can."

The community was remembering Balbir on the anniversary of his death Sunday with a special meal at a local temple.

Often working through the Arizona Interfaith Movement, Sodhi has been recognized by the state's chapter of the Anti-Defamation League and by the White House under President Barack Obama's administration.

The shooter Frank Roque is serving life in prison for the first-degree murder of Sodhi's older brother at his Mesa, Arizona, gas station on Sept. 15, 2011. Balbir was the first of scores of Sikhs as well as Muslims targeted in hate crimes after 9/11.

Another brother, Sukhpal, was shot and killed 10 months later as he drove his cab in San Francisco. Authorities did not confirm the second killing as a hate crime, saying it appeared to be a stray bullet from a gang shooting, but the family doesn't doubt he died because of his Sikh identity.

In the case of Balbir, at least, "I feel like we got justice," Sodhi said.

Despite the loss of his brothers, Sodhi, now 52, said he considers himself lucky to live in a country that was founded by immigrants and that allows him to practice his religion, even while the Trump administration makes it harder for other newcomers to settle in the United States.

Three years ago, Sodhi for-

gave Roque in a telephone call to him in prison. After hearing remorse in Roque's voice, he said: "If I had the power to take you out from prison, I would do it right now," according to a highly publicized recording of the conversation.

Sodhi said the family immigrated to the U.S. in 1985, one year after anti-Sikh violence killed thousands of people in their native India. They first settled in California, then Arizona.

Balbir was shot dead while planting flowers at the gas station just four days after the 9/11 attacks. Roque had reportedly said he was "going to go out and shoot some towel-heads."

Roque was also accused of drive-by shootings later that same day at an Afghan family's home and a Lebanese man's convenience store, although no one was injured in those other shootings.

Attacks against Sikhs following 9/11 helped spark the creation of the Sikh Coalition, the largest Sikh advocacy

Over 70 arrested in immigration protest at Microsoft store

NEW YORK (AP)—Dozens of immigration policy protesters have been arrested at a demonstration outside a Microsoft store in New York City. Police say they took 76 people into custody Saturday who blocked traffic near the Fifth Avenue store in Manhattan. The protesters criticized Microsoft for doing business with U.S.

Asia

HK protesters rally for support at British Consulate

HONG KONG (AP)—Hundreds of demonstrators rallied Sunday outside the British Consulate in Hong Kong, stepping up calls for international support in their months-long campaign for democratic reforms in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Those gathered waved British flags, sang “God save the Queen” and chanted “U.K. save Hong Kong.” With banners declaring “one country, two systems is dead,” they repeated calls for Hong Kong’s former colonial ruler to ensure the city’s autonomy is upheld under agreements made when it ceded power to China in 1997. Demonstrators held similar rallies Sept. 1 at the British facility and last week-

end at the U.S. Consulate.

The protests were triggered in June by an extradition bill that many saw as an example of China’s increasing intrusion and a chipping away at Hong Kong’s freedoms and rights, many of which are not accorded to mainland China.

The government promised this month to withdraw the bill, which would have allowed some criminal suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial, but protesters have widened their demands to include direct elections for the city’s leaders and police accountability.

The summer of protest has seen clashes between protesters and Hong Kong’s police, who demonstrators have accused of abuses. More than

1,300 people have been arrested since June.

The unrest has further battered Hong Kong’s economy, which was already reeling from the U.S.-China trade war. It is also seen as an embarrassment to China’s ruling Communist Party ahead of Oct. 1 National Day celebrations.

There were plans to con-

verge later Sunday at the Causeway Bay shopping district in defiance of a police ban of a rally by the Civil Human Rights Front.

Police also banned the group’s Aug. 31 march but protesters turned up anyway. Clashes erupted that night, with police storming a subway car and hitting passengers

with batons and pepper spray.

Pro-democracy protesters and supporters of the central government in Beijing clashed Saturday at a shopping mall and several public places. Police arrested more than a dozen people and hospital authorities said 25 were injured.

The violence amid the mid-autumn festival holiday came

after several nights of peaceful rallies that featured protesters belting out a new protest song in mass singing at shopping malls. Thousands of people also carried lanterns with pro-democracy messages in public areas and formed illuminated human chains on two of the city’s peaks on Friday night to mark the major Chinese festival.



Protesters carry a huge British flag during a peaceful demonstration outside the British Consulate in Hong Kong, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019. AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

Gunmen kill 4 Pakistani troops in attacks near Afghan border

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan says gunmen have killed four of its soldiers in two different attacks in the country’s northwest near the Afghan border. A military statement Saturday says troops building a fence along the border in the Dir area came under attack from across the border. The firing killed three soldiers and another was critically wounded. Pakistani troops building border fences have come under such attacks from across the border frequently. It said the other attack took place in North Waziristan where gunmen fired on a routine security patrol late last night killing one soldier. Troops returned the fire killing two attackers. North Waziristan has been a sanctuary for Islamic militants. The army claimed to have cleared the area in recent years, but militants have still launched occasional attacks.

No kites, pigeon flying as China preps for 70th anniversary

BEIJING (AP)—China has banned flying kites, drones and captive pigeons over central Beijing for more than two weeks as it prepares for a military parade and other celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of Communist Party rule on Oct. 1. Flying activities that affect flight safety are prohibited in seven of the capital city’s 16 districts from Sept. 15 to Oct. 1, according to a notice posted Sunday on the Beijing municipal government’s website. The banned activities

also include flying balloons and lanterns. Military planes flew over the parade route Sunday as China held rehearsals for the second weekend in a row. Tanks and other military vehicles rumbled along the same road the previous night. The broad road was closed to both vehicles and pedestrians, with any onlookers kept behind barriers at least one-block away.

PH arrests 277 Chinese accused of investment scam

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine immigration agents have arrested 277 Chinese in a raid against an online investment scam syndicate that defrauded hundreds of people, officials said Friday. The arrests Wednesday in the Ortigas financial district in Pasig city in the Manila metropolis came after the Chinese Embassy provided information about the fraud, which has victimized more than 1,000 Chinese, Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente said. Morente said he initially ordered the arrest of four Chinese but authorities caught 273 other suspects “in the act of conducting illegal online operations.” The Chinese government cancelled the passports of those arrested, making them illegal workers in the Philippines. They would be charged and detained in an immigration jail prior to deportation, the immigration bureau said. “Their presence in the country is a risk to public security,” Morente said. “These fugitives will be hunted, deported, and will be blacklisted, effectively banning them from reentering the country.”

HEFF SHIRMAL, India (AP)—The Indian soldiers descended on Bashir Ahmed Dar’s house in southern Kashmir on Aug. 10, a few days after the government in New Delhi stripped the disputed Himalayan region of its statehood and launched a crackdown. Over the next 48 hours, the 50-year-old plumber said he suffered two separate rounds of beatings by soldiers.

They demanded that he find his younger brother, who had joined rebels opposing India’s presence in the Muslim majority region, and persuade him to surrender or else “face the music.”

In the second beating, at a military camp, Dar said he was struck with sticks by three soldiers until he was unconscious. He woke up at home, “unable to sit on my bruised and bloodied buttocks and aching back,” he added.

But it wasn’t over. On Aug. 14, soldiers returned to his house in the village of Heff Shirmal and destroyed his family’s supply of rice and other foodstuffs by mixing it

with fertilizer and kerosene.

Dar’s account of violence and intimidation by Indian soldiers was not unusual. In more than 50 interviews, residents in a dozen villages in Kashmir told The Associated Press that the military had raided their homes since India’s government imposed a security crackdown in the region Aug. 5. They said the soldiers inflicted beatings and electric shocks, forced them to eat dirt or drink filthy water, poisoned their food supplies or killed livestock, and threatened to take away and marry their female relatives. Thousands of young men have been arrested.

Asked by AP to respond to the recent allegations of abuse from the Northern Command, the Indian army’s headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir. Its spokesman based in the main city of Srinagar, Col. Rajesh Kalia, dismissed the villagers’ accounts as “completely baseless and false,” and asserted the Indian army values human rights.

“There have been reports of

movement of terrorists” in the areas AP visited, Kalia said. “Some youth were suspected to be involved in anti-national and disruptive activities and were handed over to police as per law of the land.”

India’s top security official, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, said the army has not been involved in the operation in Kashmir. “There have been no atrocities,” he said.

For years, there have been accusations from Kashmir residents and international human rights groups that Indian troops have carried out systematic abuse and unjustified arrests of those who oppose rule from New Delhi in the divided region that is claimed by both India and Pakistan.

But frustration, anger and fear have been growing in Kashmir in the five weeks since the Hindu nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi stripped the region of most of its semi-autonomous status on Aug. 5 and imposed a curfew and a communications blackout. Although some restrictions have

been eased in the main city of Srinagar, with students encouraged to return to school and businesses to reopen, rural residents complain of what they perceive as a campaign of violence and intimidation that seems designed at suppressing any militancy, rebellion or dissent.

The abuses in the nighttime raids by troops began in early August as New Delhi took its action on Kashmir, according to interviews with at least 200 people. The change in status nullified decades-old constitutional provisions that gave Jammu and Kashmir some political autonomy and land inheritance rights. It also downgraded the state into two federally governed territories. The actions have been challenged in India’s Supreme Court.

In the village of Parigam, the family of baker Sonaulah Sofi was asleep when army troops raided his home. The soldiers took his two sons into a street, hitting them with gun butts, iron chains and sticks, Sofi said.

World

Thousands in Bahamas struggle to find work after Dorian

FREEPOR, Bahamas (AP)—Jobs are scarce, savings are running low and money is barely trickling in.

As survivors of Hurricane Dorian enter week three of post-storm life, many in the northwestern Bahamas, known for its casinos, golf courses and mega yachts, worry they will be forced into deep poverty as they scramble to find work in the aftermath of the Category 5 storm that wreaked havoc on two islands.

"People say, 'You're going to be all right,' but those are mere words," said Edna Gelin, who was the manager of a natural hair store in Freeport on Grand Bahama island that has been closed since being badly damaged by the storm. "It's going to be bad because a lot of businesses were destroyed."

As the northwestern Bahamas struggles to recover from Dorian, residents braced for newly formed Tropical Storm Humberto, which was expected to hit two islands over the weekend that were already battered by Dorian. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the storm was passing just east of Great Abaco island early Saturday and would bring heavy rains to the northwestern Bahamas.

In the months prior to the hurricane, the unemployment rate of the tourism-dependent Bahamas had decreased slightly, but stood at 10% on the archipelago of some 395,000 in-



A man and girl peer out from a bakery and cafeteria in Freeport, Bahamas, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019. AP

habitants. On Grand Bahama it was 11% and had increased to 9% on nearby Abaco before Dorian slammed both islands, with people now trying to find any type of work after thousands lost their jobs.

Carl Swann, an IT technician from Abaco, recently typed up his resume on his cellphone after hearing about several job leads in the capital, Nassau: assistant engineer, security guard and electronic salesman. However, he hasn't secured any interviews yet and worries about his finances because he has nowhere to go

and has been staying at a hotel for two weeks.

"I'm wasting my money," he said.

It's unclear how many Bahamians affected by the hurricane have sought and obtained unemployment benefits, but the government has pledged to make it easier for evacuees to access those benefits.

"That will be a big relief," Labor Minister Dion Foulkes recently told reporters. "We'd like to stabilize as many families as we can as quick as possible."

He also said the government would soon announce new

measures to help the nearly 5,000 people who were evacuated to New Providence, the most populous island in the Bahamas, from Grand Bahama and the Abaco islands after Dorian.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said ahead of a weekend visit to the Bahamas

that more than three-quarters of all buildings were destroyed by the hurricane.

"Hospitals are either in ruins, or overwhelmed. Schools turned into rubble," Guterres said in a statement. "Thousands of people will continue to need help with food, water and shelter. Many more facing

"I'm a bread man," he said as he stood in a line Friday outside an emergency operations center in Freeport seeking food, water, building supplies and other materials since the storm took everything he owned.

Italy: Rescue boat with 82 migrants can sail to Italian isle

ABOARD THE OCEAN VIKING (AP)

Italy allowed a charity rescue ship to sail Saturday to a tiny southern island so that 82 migrants aboard could be transferred to shore, but the country's foreign minister cautioned against interpreting the move as a sign the new government is easing a crackdown on humanitarian vessels.

Shortly before midnight, all the migrants had been transferred off the Ocean Viking after several days stranded at sea prior to being given permission to sail to Lampedusa island.

Women, children and unaccompanied minors were put on an Italian coast guard vessel, while men were taken aboard a customs police boat, so all could be brought to Lampedusa's dock.

The Norwegian-flagged ship, which had appealed for days for a port of safety, is operated by two humanitarian groups, Doctors Without Borders and SOS Mediterranee.

Ocean Viking carried out its first rescue, of 50 migrants who were struggling in an unseaworthy rubber dinghy launched by Libyan-based migrant smugglers, on Sept. 8. The others were rescued the next day. Among the mi-

grants is a 1-year-old boy from Somalia.

"We just heard that we have been assigned a place of safety, we are now on our way" to Lampedusa, Erkinalp Kesikli of Doctors Without Borders said earlier in the day after the ship received a call from Italian authorities about the permission.

Migrants clapped with joy and excitement.

"We are very happy about the news this morning. It amazes us. This news amazes us," said Myriam Annie Malang, one of the migrants.

"We are arriving at a place where people understand and listen to us. We are very happy to learn that we are disembarking in Lampedusa."

Malang said she had been beaten while detained in Libya, a common account of suffering among migrants waiting to depart the northern African country on smugglers' boats. She said she had fled conflict between English- and French-speaking communities in Cameroon.

The previous government, under a rigid anti-migrant policy led by right-wing leader Matteo Salvini, banned charity rescue boats from entering Italy's waters and disembarking migrants on

Italy's shores.

Premier Giuseppe Conte's week-old coalition now contains the center-left Democrats, whose leaders have called for a more humane policy on the rescue boats.

Italy's current and previous governments have insisted on more solidarity from fellow European Union nations, saying the migrants set out on their journeys seeking asylum or better economic conditions in Europe as a whole, not necessarily in Italy.

Italy's new foreign minister, Luigi Di Maio, leader of the coalition's senior partner, the populist 5-Star Movement, cautioned against concluding his government was softening its stance on private rescue boats.

"I believe there's a big misunderstanding about a safe port given to Ocean Viking," Di Maio told reporters. "It was assigned a port because the EU adhered to our request to take the great share of the migrants."

Germany's interior minister said in a report published on Saturday his country is prepared to take in a quarter of migrants rescued off the Italian coast as the European Union tries to find a solution to repeated standoffs involving humanitarian groups' ships.

Taliban visits Moscow days after Trump says talks 'dead'

MOSCOW (AP)—A negotiating team from the Taliban arrived Friday in Russia, a representative told The Associated Press, just days after U.S. President Donald Trump declared dead a deal with the insurgent group in Afghanistan.

Russian state news agency Tass cited the Taliban's Qatar-based spokesman Suhail Shaheen as saying the delegation had held consultations with Zamir Kabulov, President Vladimir Putin's envoy for Afghanistan. The visit was confirmed to the AP by a Taliban official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

The Interfax news agency cited an unidentified Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the meeting in Russia underlined the necessity of renewing talks between the U.S. and the Taliban, and that the Taliban confirmed their readiness to continuing dialogue with Washington.

It was the Taliban's first in-

ternational visit following the collapse of talks with Washington. The team was being led by Mullah Sher Mohammad Stanikzai.

"This is a notable development, as it suggests the Taliban wants to underscore its continued interest in dialogue, even after President Trump pulled the plug on the US-Taliban talks," said Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the Washington-based Wilson Center.

"And how striking that the insurgents have chosen to telegraph a message of conciliation by engaging with Moscow, a key U.S. rival that has made great efforts to deepen ties with the Taliban in recent months."

In a weekend tweet, Trump had called off negotiations and canceled a meeting he said he wanted to have with Afghan government leaders and the Taliban at the Camp David presidential retreat.

Shaheen told the Taliban's official website on Tuesday that the group was still com-

Health & Wellness

5 cheap foods that are making you fat

By A.J. ANDREWS
GOBANKINGRATES.COM

Cutting your grocery bill is a tempting and worthwhile endeavor. Unfortunately, those cheap treats aren't always as good for your waistline as they are for your budget. In fact, a number of low-cost foods that seem like they should be healthy are actually anything but. Moreover, eating oversized portions of even the healthiest foods can lead to weight gain.

You don't have to give up your favorite snacks to stay fit, but you should practice moderation when making meal choices. And if you want to eat healthy for super cheap, avoid eating too much of these low-cost foods known for packing on the pounds.



SODA

Cost: \$1.97 per 3-liter bottle

Soda might be the ultimate source of low-nutrient calories. According to a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, 120,000

men and women who added just one 12-ounce can of soda a day to their normal food intake gained an average of 1 pound of fat every four years.

And diet sodas aren't much better. A study published in the journal Stroke revealed that participants who drank between one and six diet soft drinks a week had an increased risk of both stroke and dementia.

Instead of grabbing a soda next time you're on the go, reach for a bottle of water to stay hydrated.

FRUIT JUICE

Cost: \$2.00 per 1.75-liter carton

Fruit juice is natural, so you might assume it's better for you than soda. Although that glass of orange juice does contain a plethora of vitamins and minerals, not everything that's natural is good for you.

The high calorie counts of many popular juices make them damaging to your diet. Believe it or not, a 12-ounce serving of OJ has the same number of calories—a whopping 180—as three chocolate chip cookies. And according to a recent Atlantic article, juice has just as much sugar as Coke.

Nutrition experts have long sus-



pected that sugar is hazardous to our health. According to a recent study in the journal Obesity, children who consumed less processed sugar for just nine days experienced a significant reduction in blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar.

NUTRITION BARS

Cost: \$1.28 per bar

A number of snack bars have the word "nutrition" on the label—and many don't deserve it. Because consumers assume nutrition bars are healthy snacking options, they often overindulge in these treats. After all, it's easier to rationalize eating a nutrition bar every day than a candy bar.

However, when portion sizes are equalized, so-called nutrition bars

are not so different from their candy aisle counterparts. An average nutrition bar has 200 calories, 8 grams of fat and 11 grams of sugar, while a Snickers candy bar contains 215 calories and 12 grams of fat.

If you're going to include nutrition bars in your diet, treat them like candy. Eat these snacks in moderation, barring any health conditions that require you to limit your sugar intake.

CRACKERS

Cost: \$1.98 per 16-ounce box

If you want to save money on groceries and stock up on satisfying snacks, crackers might be your go-to buy. Crackers and other grain-based snacks aren't inherently bad for you, but their nutritional profiles can vary widely. For example, a serving of five saltines has about 70 calories, 2 grams of fat, 0 grams of sugar and 135 mg of sodium, whereas a serving of wheat crackers has 140 calories, 5 grams of fat, 4 grams of glucose and 190 milligrams of sodium.

Saltines seem like the better choice, but both types of crackers can negatively affect weight loss by causing blood sugar to spike and prompting



more cravings. It's easy to overeat when a snack is salty, crispy and delicious, so stick to the portion sizes provided on the boxes for best results.

BREAKFAST MUFFINS

Cost: \$1.28 per 5-ounce muffin

If you have kids, there's a good chance they've requested cake for breakfast on occasion. And while you probably wouldn't feed them this sweet treat in the morning, many of us have served up breakfast muffins. However, a look at the nutritional profiles of these two items reveals more similarities than differences.

A 5-ounce blueberry breakfast muffin has a whopping 620 calories, 30 grams of fat and 80 grams of carbs, while a 5-ounce piece of chocolate cake with frosting has 520 calories, 23 grams of fat and 77 grams of carbs. Still, you'd be wrong to assume the cake is the healthier choice.

In fact, overconsumption of sugar can cause a number of negative effects. According to a study published by JAMA Internal Medicine, individuals who consumed 17 percent to 21 percent of their calories from added sugar had a 38 percent higher chance of cardiovascular death than those who consumed just 8 percent of their daily calories from sugar.

For best results, skip the breakfast muffin and opt for some eggs and fruit instead.

GOBankingRates.com () is a leading portal for personal finance news and features, offering visitors the latest information on everything from interest rates to strategies on saving money, managing a budget and getting out of debt.

For successful weight loss dieting, check blood sugar and insulin

By BRADLEY J. FIKES
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

Success on a weight-loss diet can be predicted by measuring a person's blood sugar and fasting insulin levels, according to a study presented at the American Diabetes Association meeting in San Diego.

Moreover, effective weight loss and control in some can be achieved without restricting calories, as long as the diet is rich in fiber.

The international study examined data from six studies of different diets designed to improve nutrition. It found that those biomarkers consistently predicted losing weight and keeping it off.

The kinds of diets that work depend on whether a patient's blood sugar level is higher than normal as in prediabetes, or high enough to indicate diabetes. Results were presented at the American Diabetes Association 77th Scientific Sessions.

Those with type 2 diabetes can lose weight on a diet rich in plant fats, such as those from olive and avocado oil.

A fiber-rich diet without calorie restrictions is successful for many with prediabetes, the study found. Carbohydrate and fat intake should be adjusted according to fasting insulin levels.

"Remarkably, for many patients, use of these biomarkers can lead to a six- to seven-fold greater weight

loss," study leader Arne Astrup said in a statement. He is head of the Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

"Going forward, we can educate patients when a diet they planned to follow would actually make them gain weight, and redirect them to a strategy that we know will work for them."

The study also included researchers from the University of Colo-

rado, Tufts University, Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red de Fisiopatología de la Obesidad y Nutrición (CIBER OBN) and Geleysis, Inc.

The study fits in with other research indicating that weight loss diets need to be matched to an individual's own metabolic profile.

And for the diets to really stick, they can't be temporary, but part of a changed lifestyle that people can embrace without feeling deprived.

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Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Life & Style

'I was stupid': Huffman gets 14 days in college scam

BOSTON (AP)—“Desperate Housewives” star Felicity Huffman was sentenced Friday to 14 days in prison for paying \$15,000 to rig her daughter’s SAT scores, tearfully apologizing to the teen-

ager for not trusting her to get into college on her own.

“I was frightened, I was stupid, and I was so wrong,” Huffman, 56, said as she became the first parent sentenced in a college admissions scan-

dal that ensnared dozens of wealthy and well-connected mothers and fathers.

The scandal exposed the lengths to which parents will go to get their children into the “right” schools and reinforced

suspicions that the college admissions process is slanted toward the rich.

In sentencing Huffman, U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani noted the outrage the case has generated, adding that it “isn’t

because people discovered that it isn’t a true meritocracy out there.” The outrage, she said, was because Huffman took steps “to get one more advantage” in a system “already so distorted by money and privilege.”

Prosecutors had sought a month in prison for Huffman, while her lawyers said she should get probation.

of conspiracy and fraud as part of a deal with prosecutors.

The amount Huffman paid is relatively low compared with other bribes alleged in the scheme. Some parents are accused of paying up to \$500,000.

Huffman must report for her prison sentence in six weeks. She also must pay a \$30,000 fine and perform 250 hours of community service.

“I would like to apologize again to my daughter, my husband, my family and the educational community for my actions,” Huffman said in an emailed statement after the sentencing hearing. “And I especially want to apologize to the students who work hard every day to get into college, and to their parents who make tremendous sacrifices supporting their children.”

In arguing for incarceration, Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Rosen told the judge that prosecutors had no reason to doubt the rationale Huffman offered—her fears and insecurities as a parent—for taking part in the scheme.

Cardi B, A\$AP Rocky and more support Rihanna's Diamond Ball

NEW YORK (AP)—Like many kids, Rihanna dreamed of someday growing up to be rich, but helping others was at the forefront of her vision.

“It’s always been important to me before any success,” she told The Associated Press Thursday at her annual Diamond Ball charity gala. “As a kid, just seeing those commercials on television with the kids in Africa where it’s like, ‘it just takes 10 cent or 25 cents to help somebody.’ I used to think, ‘When I grow up, I’m gonna be rich and I’m going to make a lot of money and I could make a lot of 10 cents and a lot of 25 cents.’”

She’s made a lot more than that as superstar singer and now fashion and beauty mogul, and with her Clara Lionel Foundation has doled out money around the globe to help support education programs, women’s health and emergency response organizations for people in need.

The foundation named after Rihanna’s grandparents raised more than \$5 million Thursday night. Cardi B and Offset, A\$AP Rocky, Karlie Kloss, DJ Khaled, 21 Savage, Pharrell Williams and others came out to support the glittering charity dinner, which

even featured an impromptu performance by Rihanna and Williams.

“I’m a fan of her energy. She has a beautiful soul,” DJ Khaled said before entering the event at Cipriani’s in downtown Manhattan with his pregnant wife. “In my book, she keeps it mad real. It’s just a beautiful day, we’re putting beautiful energy out there.”

It was the second all-star event Rihanna staged this week. Khaled, Halsey and more turned out for her New York Fashion Week show on Tuesday, an extravaganza for her lingerie line Savage X Fenty that featured musical performances along with a catwalk.

The star wowed on the red carpet dressed in a black velvet turtleneck dress with a flared skirt.

“Just glam. She’s so glamorous, she’s so gorgeous. Anytime I think of Rihanna, I just think of just glam,” said rapper Megan Thee Stallion.

Rihanna told the crowd she was “humbled” by the support for Clara Lionel, and noted that her grandmother Clara Brathwaite, who died seven years ago, would tell her helping others is “about the collective joining forces.”

Women's Hall of Fame inducts Sotomayor, Fonda, Allred



Furstenberg



Wong-Staal



Allred



Fonda



Slaughter



Malachowski



Deer



Sotomayor



Davis

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, actress Jane Fonda and attorney Gloria Allred were among the inductees at the National Women’s Hall of Fame on Saturday.

The Class of 2019 inducted into the hall in upstate New York also included activist Angela Davis, attorney Sarah Deer, fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg, retired Air Force fighter pilot Nicole Malachowski, the late artist and suffragist Rose O’Neill and the late U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter of New York.

Composer Laurie Spiegel was honored for her electronic music compositions, and molecular biologist Flossie Wong-Staal for work that helped prove HIV is the cause of AIDS.

Davis, a onetime leader of the Black Panther Party and the Communist Party USA who was prosecuted for her

alleged involvement in a 1970 courthouse shootout and ultimately acquitted, said her activism was not hers alone.

“At each significant turning point in my life, when I was introduced to the world of progressive political activism, anti-racist prison abolition struggles, when I myself was on the FBI’s 10 Most Wanted List and ended up spending two years in jail and on trial, when I became involved in many international solidarity efforts, intersectional feminist movements, I’ve always been one of many,” Davis said in accepting her award. “My own consciousness has been enabled always by shared endeavors and collective consciousness.”

The hall in Seneca Falls, where a landmark U.S. women’s rights convention took place in 1848, doesn’t identify a theme when it calls for

nominations, said induction chairwoman Sujatha Ramanujan. But she said sometimes a theme emerges, as it has this year, that reflects the political and social mood of the country.

“It shows up in the nominations because we ask the general public,” Ramanujan said, “and in a time when women are feeling like their voices need to be heard, they’re nominating women whose voices were loud.”

She pointed particularly to Allred and her work as an advocate for women who have

been abused and to Deer, a Native American activist focused on victims’ rights.

All the living honorees accepted invitations to the induction weekend events.

“I feel this connection, and I always have felt it—even before I knew I was going to be inducted—to the women’s rights pioneers who came before me,” said Allred, who at 78 continues to represent accusers in high-profile sexual misconduct cases including those against the late financier Jeffrey Epstein and movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Solid gold toilet stolen from Winston Churchill's birthplace

LONDON (AP)—A unique solid gold toilet that was part of an art exhibit was stolen early Saturday from the magnificent home in England where British wartime leader Winston Churchill was born.

The toilet, valued at roughly 1 million pounds (\$1.25 million), was the work of Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan. It had been installed only two days earlier at Blenheim Palace, west of London, after previously being shown to appreciative audiences at the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Police said the toilet was taken early Saturday by thieves who used at least two vehicles. Because it had been connected to the palace’s plumbing system, police said the toilet’s removal caused “significant damage and flooding” to the building, a UNESCO World Heritage site filled with valuable art and furniture.

A 66-year-old man was ar-

rested in the case, but he has not been identified or charged.

Inspector Richard Nicholls from Thames Valley Police said police believe the thieves left the spacious property about 4:50 a.m. and that the toilet was the only item taken. Closed circuit TV footage is being studied in the investigation.

Prior to the theft, visitors to the Cattelan exhibition could book a three-minute appointment to use the toilet. This had proved popular when the toilet was on display at the Guggenheim.

The artist intended the golden toilet to be a pointed satire about excessive wealth. Cattelan has previously said: “Whatever you eat, a \$200 lunch or a \$2 hot dog, the results are the same, toilet-wise.”

Last year, the chief curator at the Guggenheim offered to lend the golden toilet to U.S. President Donald Trump and his wife Melania Trump when



This Sept. 16, 2016 file image made from a video shows the 18-karat toilet, titled “America,” by Maurizio Cattelan in the restroom of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. AP

they asked to borrow a Van Gogh painting for their private White House quarters. Curator Nancy Spector had been critical of Trump in social media.

Saturday’s theft also comes after Edward Spencer-Churchill told The Times newspaper that the golden toilet would not be very easy to steal since it was connected to

the palace’s plumbing.

“So no, I don’t plan to be guarding it,” he said.

Thames Valley Police Detective Inspector Jess Milne said: “The artwork has not been recovered at this time but we are conducting a thorough investigation to find it and bring those responsible to justice.”

'Ghostbuster' sequel to focus on a family of original film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The upcoming "Ghostbuster" sequel will focus on the descendants of the original ghost-catchers who rushed around New York City in proton packs and jumpsuits.

Ivan Reitman and Dan Aykroyd revealed details of the new film, saying it is expected out next year and will star Paul Rudd, Finn Wolfhard, Carrie Coon and McKenna Grace. Reitman directed the original 1984 film and Aykroyd co-wrote and co-starred in it. Reitman's son, Jason, is directing

the new movie.

"I think it's a wonderful story because people seem to continue to be interested in 35 years after we came out with the first one. And I think we're trying to expand it a little bit. And I think Jason's movie does that," Ivan Reitman said Thursday. "This is a story about a family."

Both men were at Universal Studios Hollywood, where they were promoting a "Ghostbusters"-themed "Halloween Horror Nights" maze attraction.

Disney CEO departs Apple's board with video showdown looming

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Walt Disney Co. CEO Robert Iger has stepped down from Apple's board of directors as the two companies prepare to launch competing video streaming services aimed at market leader Netflix.

Apple disclosed Iger's departure in a regulatory filing Friday, but his resignation became effective Tuesday. That's the same day that Apple announced its long-awaited video streaming service will debut Nov. 1 and cost only \$5 per month, less than half the price of Netflix's most popular plan.

Disney is gearing up to launch a video streaming service for \$7 per month later in November.

The dueling services raised potential conflicts of interest that apparently prompted Iger to step down after spending nearly eight years on Apple's board.

Apple praised Iger as an

"exemplary" board member and one of its "most trusted business partners" in a statement.

Iger responded in kind. "Apple is one of the world's most admired companies, known for the quality and integrity of its products and its people, and I am forever grateful to have served as a member of the company's board," he said in a statement.

Iger, 68, became intertwined with Apple in 2006 when he negotiated a \$7.4 billion deal to buy computer animation studio Pixar, a company run by Steve Jobs. That made the Apple co-founder Disney's largest shareholder, and Jobs took a seat on Disney's board, which he held until his death in 2011.

Now both companies are taking aim at the rapidly growing video streaming market—a field that Netflix

The franchise was last revived in 2016 with a group of four actresses—Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones—taking over as the title characters, a gender reversal from the original.

Aykroyd, who is a producer along with Reitman on the new "Ghostbusters," praised the 2016 film but said it was time to hand off the mantle "to a new generation."

"Although the girls' movie kept the concept and the



In this Feb. 24, 2008 file photo, Jason Reitman, left, an Oscar nominee for best director for his work on "Juno," arrives with his father, director Ivan Reitman for the 80th Academy Awards in Los Angeles. AP

ideas alive—and it was really good, they were great in it—it wasn't like giving it to the new generation, the actual descendants of the original Ghostbusters. So we're going to link to the DNA old and new there," he said.

Margot Robbie feels 'lucky' to become face of Chanel perfume

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Margot Robbie feels lucky to build upon the Chanel legacy as the face for the brand's newest perfume.

The "Once Upon a Time In Hollywood" star said she is ready to lead the campaign for the new Chanel Gabrielle

Chanel fragrance. She spoke about her involvement as the company's brand ambassador before hosting a private dinner on Thursday night to celebrate the launch of the perfume in Los Angeles.

"It's a time of my life where I'm settled into who I am as a

woman," she said. "I'm constantly creatively inspired by things happening around me and the people I'm meeting. In some ways, that translates to Gabrielle Chanel in a time when she was doing this I suppose."

Robbie said the new fragrance represents Gabrielle

"Coco" Chanel in her earlier days when she was "creating and building something that's still here today." The 29-year-old Australian actress danced and twirled with white and gold veils to the tune of Beyoncé's "Halo" in a recent commercial for the perfume.

Sam Smith announces new pronouns of 'they' and 'them'

NEW YORK (AP)—Sam Smith has declared the pronouns of "they/them" on social media after coming out as non-binary in what the pop star called a "lifetime of being at war with my gender."

The English "Too Good at

Goodbyes" singer was met with thousands of mostly supportive comments, along with some detractors who questioned the need to change pronouns, an increasingly common practice both within and outside of the LGBTQ community.

Ohio gamer sentenced to 15 months prison in 'swatting' case

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—An Ohio gamer upset about a \$1.50 bet while playing Call of Duty: WWII online was sentenced Friday to 15 months in prison for recruiting a prankster to make a bogus emergency call that resulted in the fatal shooting of a Kansas man by police.

Casey Viner, 19, of North College Hill, Ohio, also is restricted from gaming activity for two years while he is on

supervised release after serving his prison term, U.S. District Judge Eric Melgren said in announcing the sentence.

Viner repeatedly gulped and appeared crestfallen as the judge announced his sentencing decision. He glanced into the courtroom gallery where his parents were seated. His tearful mother got up and left the courtroom. His father, an Ohio law enforcement officer,

"Today is a good day so here goes. I've decided I am changing my pronouns to THEY/THEM," the 27-year-old Smith wrote on Twitter and Instagram. "After a lifetime of being at war with my gender I've decided to embrace myself for who I am, inside and out."

Smith said they were excited and privileged for the support, adding that they've been "very nervous" about the announcement because they "care too much about what people think" but finally decided to go for it.

Viner pleaded guilty in April to felony charges of conspiracy and obstruction of justice in the hope that he would not be sentenced to prison. Viner admitted trying to hide his involvement in the 2017 incident when he realized the antinatalist had gotten someone killed.

In a brief courtroom statement, Viner told the judge he is "awfully sorry" for what put his head into his hands.

Viner admitted trying to hide his involvement in the 2017 incident when he realized the antinatalist had gotten someone killed.

Prosecutors and defense lawyers in their plea agreement had recommended a sentence of two years on probation, with the added condition that Viner be confined for six months to his home unless attending school, work or church. They also jointly recommended the gaming restriction.

New wife's wardrobe doesn't measure up to cousins' taste

DEAR ABBY: My cousin recently married a lovely girl, someone he'd been dating for a couple of years. Our whole family loves her, and she's always been very sweet to us.

She's very intelligent and kind, but the issue is her wardrobe. She's pretty but refuses to wear nice clothes. Instead she wears baggy, boring clothes. Our family is fashion-conscious, and I know my cousin has suggested to her several times that she buy new clothing—to no avail. He thinks she's self-conscious about her body.

Her birthday is coming up, and my sister and I would like to take her shopping as a birthday gift to buy her some nicer clothes. My cousin thinks she might not appreciate it, but he agrees that she needs new clothes. He also suggested buying her a gift card to somewhere, although that wouldn't solve the problem of which clothes she buys with it. Do you think that taking her clothes shopping for her birthday would be appropriate?

FASHIONISTA IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR FASHIONISTA: I think it is a nice idea, as long as you do NOT frame it the way you have to me. A better way to make the offer might be to invite her for a lovely birthday lunch and some "retail therapy." If you then decide to peek into a couple of clothing stores, she might be willing. And if you find something appropriate and offer to treat her as a birthday gift, she might accept. Keep it light, do not pressure her, but compliment her when she tries on things that flatter her.

DEAR ABBY: My family is surrounded by neighbors who are all friendly. We have cookouts together regularly. Everyone contributes to the budget and food preparation except one neighbor. He's a single dad of 12-year-old twins, and they show up to every BBQ without bringing a dish or their own drinks, yet they all eat heartily. We have run out of food for the intended participants (who paid for the food) because of them. What's the best way to handle this situation without making an enemy of a neighbor?

FED UP WITH FREELOADING

DEAR FED UP: Your neighbor may not be clear about the rules. It shouldn't earn you an enemy for life if you point out to this single dad of twins (with growing appetites) that these get-togethers are potluck, which means everyone is expected to contribute to the cost of the food as well as bring a side dish so the food won't run out. TELL him what to bring. They should also help with the setup and cleanup. If he's uncooperative after that, he's a moocher and you all will be well rid of him if he takes offense.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 12 years and I have an ongoing disagreement about the language he uses when he texts women friends. He opens his text with "Hi, Beautiful" or, "Good Morning, Gorgeous." I consider this to be flirting, but he regards it as harmless even though he knows it hurts my feelings because he doesn't text that way to me.

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



I trust him and don't feel there's anything going on with any of these women, but I think he's playing with fire. The wrong woman may interpret it differently, and that's how affairs start. Do you think I am overreacting?

MISUNDERSTOOD IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR MISUNDERSTOOD: Yes. Your problem with your husband isn't that he's calling other women beautiful and gorgeous. It's that he ISN'T complimenting you, and I think you should point that out to him. Shame on him!

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

ONE (1) Architectural Drafter \$20.33 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Prepared detailed drawings of architectural designs and plans for buildings, structures and interior rooms according to specifications provided by architect. Operate computer aided drafting (CAD) equipment or conventional drafting station to produce designs, working drawings, charts, forms and records. Analyze building codes, bylaws, space and site requirements and other technical documents and reports to determine their impact on architectural designs. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's degree in Architecture or related field required. Two (2) years experience as Architectural Drafter is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SIX (6) Automotive Body & Related Repairs \$12.54 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames. Fit and weld replacement parts into place using wrenches and welding equipment and grind down welds to smooth them using power grinders and other tools. Prime and paint repaired surfaces using paint spray guns and motorized sanders. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma is required. At least 1 year experience as Automotive Body & Related Repairer is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Automotive Service Technician & Mechanic \$7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose cause of most malfunctions and performs repair of vehicles. Examines vehicle to determine if further safety or service work is required or recommended. Road tests vehicles when required. Accomplish related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma required. At least 2 years experience as Automotive Service Technician & Mechanic is required.

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USA Fanter is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

TWO (2) Civil Engineering Technician \$14.18 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects and to ensure conformance to specifications using Autocad. Prepare reports and document project activities and data. Inspect project site and evaluate contractor work to detect design malfunctions and ensure conformance to specifications and applicable codes. Develop plans and estimate costs for installation of systems, utilization of facilities or construction of structures. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Associate Degree in Engineering is required. At least 24 months experience is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

THREE (3) Construction Laborer \$8.09 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Perform tasks involving physical labor at construction sites. May operate hand and power tools of all types; air hammers, earth tamers, cement mixers, small mechanical hoists, surveying and measuring equipment, and a variety of other equipment and instruments. May clean and prepare sites, dig trenches, set braces to support the sides of excavations, erect scaffolding and clean up rubble, debris and other waste materials. May assist other craft workers and perform related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma is required. At least 12 months experience as Construction laborer is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Civil Engineering Technician \$14.18 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects and to ensure conformance to specifications using Autocad. Prepare reports and document project activities and data. Inspect project site and evaluate contractor work to detect design malfunctions and ensure conformance to design specifications and applicable codes. Develop plans and estimate costs for installation of systems, utilization of facilities, or construction of structures. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Associate Degree in Engineering is required. At least 24 months experience is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Driver \$8.11 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Drive a tractor-trailer combination or heavy truck. Required to unload truck. Check vehicles to ensure that mechanical, safety and emergency equipment is in good working order. Follow appropriate safety procedures for transporting goods. Inspect loads to ensure that cargo is secure. Secure cargo for transport using ropes, blocks, chain binders or covers.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
At least 1 year experience as Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Driver is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

THREE (3) Operating Engineer & Other Construction Equipment Operator \$9.05 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Operate various heavy equipment to move material, grade, excavate, backfill, land clearing or vibrating or breaking rock or concrete. Set up or inspect equipment prior to operation. Perform routine maintenance on equipment such as ensuring proper tire pressure, fill with water, coolant or oil to required levels, lubricate or make adjustments to machinery. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma is required. At least 12 months experience required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

USA Fanter is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Counter Clerks - \$7.31 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive orders, generally in person, for repairs, rentals, and services. May describe available options, compute costs, and accept payment. Greet customers and discuss the type, quality, and quantity of merchandise sought for rental. Compute charges for merchandise or services and receive payments. Answer telephones to provide information and receive orders. Provide information about rental items, such as availability, operation, or description. Rent items, arrange for provision of services to customers, and accept returns.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Degree;
• At least 6 months experience;
• Must be a computer literate

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tin Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(25) Heavy Equipment Operators, \$8.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Operate one or several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, greet structures, or pour concrete or other hard surface products. Maintain and maintain equipment in addition to other duties. Learn and follow safety regulations. Take actions to avoid potential hazards or obstructions, such as utility lines, other equipment, other workers, or falling objects. Locate underground services, pipes or wires, locate beginning work. Monitor operations to ensure that health and safety standards are met. Adjust hand wheels and depress pedals to control attachments, such as blades, buckets, scrapers, or swing booms.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate;
• At least 12 months experience
• Knowledge in operating and controlling power equipment and in monitoring of gauges, dials or other indicators to make sure that the equipment is working properly.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tin Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(40) Masons \$7.57 to 8.25 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Smooth and finish surfaces of peered concrete, such as floors, walls, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids; and use saws to cut expansion joints. Check the forms that hold the concrete to see that they are properly constructed. Set the forms that hold concrete to the desired pitch and depth, and align them. Spread, level, and smooth concrete, using rake, shovel, hand or power trowel, or power screed, to remove air bubbles and imperfections. Ensure that concrete is cured properly so that it will not be damaged or stained by work processes. Erect scaffolding. Fill cracks or breaks in surfaces of plaster articles or areas with putty or epoxy compounds.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High school Graduate;
• At least 03 months experience
• Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tin Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) HVAC Specialist \$8.08 to 8.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT

Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Install, service, or repair heating and air conditioning systems in residences or commercial establishments. Test pipe or tubing joints or connections for leaks, using pressure gauge or soap-and-water solution. Test electrical circuits or components for continuity, using electrical test equipment. Repair or replace defective equipment, components, or wiring. Discuss the heating or cooling system malfunctions with users to isolate problems or verify that repairs corrected malfunctions. Repair or service heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to improve efficiency, such as by changing filters, cleaning ducts, or refilling non-toxic refrigerants.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Associate's Graduate;
- At least 6 months experience;
- Must have knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tin Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Quality Control Technician - \$9.02 per hour, plus 1.5 OT

Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Weigh, measure, and check materials, supplies, and equipment for the purpose of keeping records. Duties are primarily by nature. Includes workers who collect and keep record of samples of products or materials. Document quantity, quality, type, weight, test result data, and value of materials or products to maintain relevant records; using volume meters, scales, rules, or calipers. Collect or prepare measurement, weight, or identification labels and attach them to products. Examine products or materials, parts, subassemblies, and packaging for damage, defects, or shortages, using specification sheets, gauges, and standards charts. Signal or instruct other workers to weigh, move, or check products.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience;
- Must have knowledge in using measuring tools, such as scales and calipers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tin Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ITS CORPORATION JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Heavy Equipment Mechanics - \$9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Maintaining, repairing and servicing a set of heavy equipment machines or vehicles (e.g., trucks, backhoes, excavators, bulldozers, cranes and compactors), completing inspections and preventive maintenance requirement, correcting vehicle deficiencies, making adjustments and alignments, and keeping records; ensure that all equipment is operating smoothly after repair and maintenance.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum 2 years/24 months experience
- as Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- Valid CNMI Driver's license
- Valid DOT physical examination

All interested applicants can send resume to: info@itscorporation.net or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Amold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a

Popovich defends seventh placer Team USA

BEIJING (AP)—Their final game at the World Cup had been over for several minutes, and every member of the U.S. team and coaching staff were still lingering together on the court.

They were ready to go home.

They just weren't ready to go their separate ways.

For USA Basketball, summer ended Saturday with an 87-74 win over Poland in the seventh-place game at the World Cup, the lowest finish ever by a U.S. team in a major international tournament. Donovan Mitchell finished with 16 points and 10 assists, Joe Harris scored 14 and the U.S. wrapped up its stay in China with a 6-2 record.

And when it was over, as his players signed each other's jerseys in the locker room as souvenirs, U.S. coach Gregg Popovich insisted this team has nothing to be ashamed about.

"If you don't win, some people will play the blame game," Popovich said. "There's no blame to be placed anywhere. They play the shame game, like we should be ashamed because we didn't win a gold medal? That's a ridiculous attitude. It's immature. It's arrogant. And it shows that whoever thinks that doesn't respect all the other teams in the world and doesn't respect that these guys did the best they could."

Khris Middleton had 13 points, six rebounds and six assists for the Americans. Derrick White scored 12 and Harrison Barnes added 10 for the



Damian Kulig center of Poland battles with Jaylen Brown, left, and Myles Turner of the U.S. for a rebound during an FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019 classification match between the USA and Poland in Beijing Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019. AP

U.S., which led by 17 at the half but had to stave off a Poland rally in the final minutes.

The mantra the Americans carried into Saturday was to finish the trip the right way, and they got it done.

"I'm going to look back on it and have unbelievable memories," Harris said. "These are friendships that are very unique, where we've formed a special bond going through

what we just did together. ... Some of these guys who I might not have had a chance to know otherwise are now some of my closest friends. It's unique in that way."

There was little to play for except pride — and the Americans were playing with the realization that for some of them, it easily could be their last time wearing the red, white and blue uniforms with

"USA" across the chest. The roster for the U.S. trip to the Tokyo Olympics next summer is likely to look considerably different than this one.

"For me, this is an amazing experience," Mitchell said. "Everybody likes to look at the end goal, but when you sit back and reflect, I played on Team USA. That's incredible for me. I think that in itself is amazing. So yes, it was definitely worth it."

Poland coach Mike Taylor also found the World Cup most worthwhile—especially Saturday.

He's an American, lives in Florida, is proud of how far he's taken Poland's program, knows many of the words to the Polish national anthem—but mouthed along with the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" when it played pregame.

"I've been coaching with national teams, four years with the Czech Republic and now six years with Poland," Taylor said, his voice cracking slightly. "That's a lot of anthems you've heard. And I never imagined in my life that I would hear the United States. It means a lot and it's not something you take for granted."

Mateusz Ponitka scored 18 points, Adam Waczyński had 17 and Louisville-born A.J. Slaughter finished with 15 for Poland (4-4), which was in the World Cup for the first time since 1967.

"You look down at the

U.S. bench, you see one of the greatest coaches ever in Coach Pop, you see Steve Kerr, you see all those guys and you can't believe it," Slaughter said. "It was a lasting moment that I'll have for the rest of my life."



Popovich said it's too early to think about what USA Basketball needs to do before getting ready for the Tokyo Games.

But he warned—just as two-time gold medalist Kobe Bryant did on Friday—that the days of American romps to gold are done.

"There are a lot of great teams in the world," Popovich said. "It's not written in stone that the United States is supposed to walk to a championship. That's pretty old-school thinking. Even the teams that have won in the past had a lot of close calls."

When it's time for that Tokyo team to get assembled, Mitchell made it clear that he wants to be part of the squad.

"I think I have to wait for them to ask," Mitchell said. "But I want to be there."

Gasol, Spain to meet Argentina in finals

Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Lamar Odom, LeBron James and Kyrie Irving.

Those are the only five players to win an NBA title and a gold medal in the same year, whether it was in FIBA or Olympic competition, with Pippen doing it twice.

It is an exclusive club—one that Marc Gasol is on the cusp of joining.

A mere three months after helping the Toronto Raptors win the NBA Finals, Gasol has led Spain to the gold medal game at the World Cup. It'll be Spain against Argentina on Sunday, with both nations looking for their second title. Spain won the world championship in 2006 when Gasol was a 21-year-old backup, and Argentina won the inaugural tournament in 1950.

"I'm so deep in the rabbit hole right now that I don't get to see much light," Gasol said. "You're so focused on your opponent, your next rival, recovering, doing whatever's necessary to win games that you don't look at the big picture. It's been great. I'm very fortunate."

"I knew that committing to the national team this summer would not be easy physically. But it's so worth it, and not just because we're in the final game."

He simply willed Spain into the final game.

Gasol scored 33 points—his career-high for any of the 18 FIBA-sanctioned or Olympic tournaments he's played over the last 18 years—in Spain's double-overtime win against Australia in the semifinals. He gave up his NBA offseason to be part of this team, a group that failed to medal at the last World Cup in Spain five years ago, and knows he might not have too many more years left on the international stage.

"It's the responsibility of passing along that commitment, that loyalty to the team," said Gasol, who still remembers the thrill of getting invitation letters from the Spanish federation to be part of youth teams when he was 11 or 12. "Those values that we were taught so many years with the older players, now it's our turn to pass on the legacy to the next generation. And that's not talent, that's just commitment."

Argentina has one of those passing-legacy-on players, too.

Luis Scola, 39 years old, was part of the team that won gold for Argentina at the 2004 Athens Olympics—and he's been the best player for his team at the World Cup. He scored 28 points in the semifinal win over France.

Jordan says Hornets add 2 partners



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Michael Jordan is adding two partners to the Charlotte Hornets' ownership group.

Gabe Plotkin, founder and chief investment officer of Melvin Capital, and Daniel Sundheim, founder and chief investment officer of D1 Capital, have joined the Hornets as partners, pending NBA approval.

Jordan, a six-time NBA champion, will remain the majority owner.

Jordan said in a statement released by the team Saturday that he'll continue "to run the Hornets, make all decisions related to the team and organization, and remain the team's NBA Governor."

Jordan says "Gabe and Dan's investment in the franchise is invaluable, as we continue to modernize, add new technology and strive to compete with the best in the

NBA set to vote on raising tampering fines

Meanwhile NBA teams could be fined up to \$10 million for tampering and up to \$6 million for entering into unauthorized agreements with players, a person with knowledge of the league's plans told The Associated Press on Saturday.

Other maximum-fine levels could be raised significantly as well, provided the league's board of governors approves the measures Sept. 20. The league sent a memo to teams on Friday detailing the proposed fines, according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the details were not to be released publicly.

The memo addresses what

the league called a "widespread perception that many of the league's rules are being broken on a frequent basis" when it comes to tampering, salary cap matters and the timing of free agency discussions.

So the league wants to hit rule breakers where it hurts most — the checkbook, and possibly beyond. The league wants fines raised in part to reflect the 600% increase in league revenue and the 1,100% increase in franchise value since the fine ceilings were last touched in 1996.

In addition, teams will have to require its governor, top basketball operations executive and negotiators to certify annually that they did not talk to free agents or their representatives before the league rules allow. And with every player contract signed, each team's governor will have to certify that no unauthorized benefits were offered and no rules were broken.

Mateusz Ponitka scored 18 points, Adam Waczyński had 17 and Louisville-born A.J. Slaughter finished with 15 for Poland (4-4), which was in the World Cup for the first time since 1967.

"You look down at the

Braves pound Nationals, clinch playoff spot

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ronald Acuña Jr. ignited a four-run rally with the go-ahead, two-run double, and the NL East-leading Atlanta Braves clinched a playoff berth with a 10-1 victory over the Washington Nationals on Saturday.

Acuña's double down the left-field line off reliever Fernando Rodney added fuel to a dramatic seventh inning for the Braves (93-57), who reduced their magic number to four to clinch their 19th division title.

Earlier in the seventh, Charlie Culberson was struck directly on the right cheekbone by a 91-mph fastball on Rodney's first pitch of the game.

Culberson remained on his back for several minutes as trainers pressed a towel to his face. He was eventually helped to his feet and onto the back of a cart.

The Braves have won the last 11 games started by Mike Foltynewicz (7-5), who pitched six solid innings.

Wander Suero (5-8) was charged with the loss as the Washington bullpen gave up nine runs over the final four innings. The Nationals saw their lead in the NL wild card race shrink to 1½ games over the Chicago Cubs.

Athletics 8, Rangers 6
In Arlington, Mark Canha's two-run home run off the left-field foul pole broke a fifth-inning tie as the Athletics beat the Rangers.

The A's scored all their runs on homers. Matt Chapman (three-run homer in the third inning), Josh Phegley (two-run homer in the fourth) and Matt Olson (solo in the sixth). Oakland's 242 home runs are one short of the franchise record set in 1996.

Oakland has won 10 of its last 12 games.

Ryan Buchter (1-1) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings and was one of six A's relievers after Mike Fiers left following 1 2/3 innings because of right-arm nerve irritation.

Rays 3, Angels 1
In Anaheim, Travis d'Arnaud broke open a scoreless game with a three-run double in the sixth inning, and the Rays improved their standing in the AL wild card race with their 13th win in 16 games, beating the Angels.

D'Arnaud's drive went over the head of left fielder Michael Hermosillo to clear the bases for the Rays, who struggled for five innings against Angels starter Jaime Barria (4-9) before breaking through.

Although the Rays managed just five hits, their sec-

ond straight victory coupled with Cleveland's two losses in a doubleheader at Minnesota left Tampa Bay (89-61) 2½ games clear of the Indians (86-63) for the second wild card spot.

Yankees 13, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, James Paxton pitched five innings to win his ninth straight start, Brett Gardner homered twice and drove in five runs and New York hit five homers against the Blue Jays.

Gleyber Torres and Luke Voit also homered for the Yankees, going back-to-back off right-hander Brock Stewart in the fifth, as the AL East leaders won for the 14th time in 19 games.

DJ LeMahieu had four hits for New York, his AL-leading 58th multi-hit game of the season.

Paxton (14-6) allowed one run on three hits, becoming the first Yankees pitcher since Mike Mussina to win nine consecutive starts.

Mets 3, Dodgers 0

In New York, Rajai Davis hit a three-run double off Julio Urías with two outs in the eighth inning following a brilliant pitchers' duel between the Mets' Jacob deGrom and Hyun-Jin Ryu, and the Mets beat Los Angeles to maintain their slim wild-card hopes.

DeGrom and Ryu both pitched shutout ball for seven innings and neither walked a batter in a game in which each team got just three hits.

New York remained three games behind the Chicago Cubs for the second NL wild card with 14 games left and also trails Milwaukee.

Cubs 14, Pirates 1

In Chicago, Kris Bryant and rookie Nico Hoerner each homered among three hits, and the Cubs went deep four times to set a club record with 237 home runs while pounding Pittsburgh.

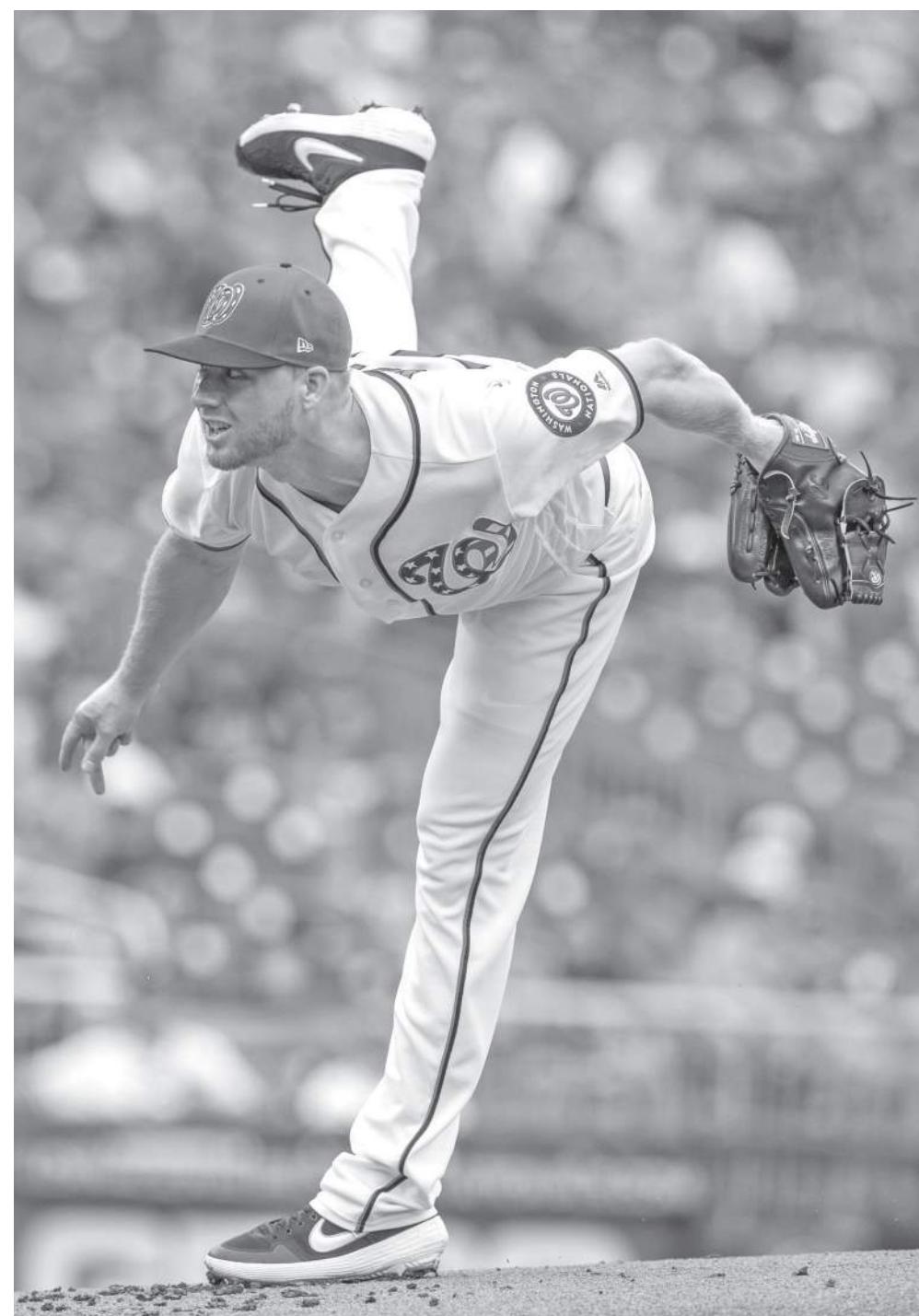
Bryant hit a two-run shot in the fourth and had four RBIs. Hoerner's second homer in two days, a three-run drive in the sixth, broke the Cubs' old mark of 235, established in 2004.

Ben Zobrist and Victor Caratini added solo shots as the Cubs used a second straight big day at the plate to strengthen their bid for a fifth straight postseason berth.

Twins 9, Indians 5, Game 2

Miguel Sanó's grand slam capped a five-run eighth inning and Minnesota grabbed firm control of the AL Central, sweeping a day-night doubleheader from Cleveland.

The sweep pushed the Twins 5½ games ahead of the Indians going into the final game of the showdown series Sunday.



Four pitchers worked for Minnesota, with rookie right-hander Brusdar Graterol (1-0) going two scoreless innings for his first major league win.

Twins 2, Indians, Game 1

Five Minnesota pitchers combined to stop Cleveland's offense and the Twins beat the Indians 2-0 in the first game of a doubleheader.

Zack Littell (5-0) relieved starter Devin Smeltzer in the fourth and struck out two in two innings.

Taylor Rogers got the final five outs for his 26th save, but had to work out of trouble in the eighth and ninth.

Jorge Polanco hit a two-run homer in the second off Mike Clevinger (11-3), who had won 10 consecutive decisions.

Brewers 5, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Mike Moustakas and Yasmani Grandal homered to help Milwaukee beat the Cardinals.

Milwaukee moved four games behind first-place St. Louis in the NL Central. The Brewers remained one game behind the Chicago Cubs for the second wild card spot and also trails the Brewers and Mets.

Red Sox starter Eduardo Rodríguez had a season-high 12 strikeouts.

Red Sox 2, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, pinch-hitter Andrew Benintendi's sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth inning lifted Boston over the Phillies.

The Phillies were mathematically eliminated from the NL East race when the Braves beat Washington earlier in the day to increase their lead in the division to 10½ games over the Nationals. Philadelphia fell 3½ games behind the Chicago Cubs for the second wild card spot and also trails the Brewers and Mets.

Red Sox starter Eduardo Rodríguez had a season-high 12 strikeouts.

Diamondbacks 1, Reds 0

In Phoenix, Merrill Kelly pitched seven scoreless innings, Nick Ahmed's triple led to the game's only run and Arizona snapped a six-game losing

streak by beating Cincinnati.

It was a much-needed win for the Diamondbacks, who are trying to stay in a crowded NL wild-card race. They're still 4½ games behind the Chicago Cubs for the final playoff spot with 13 games remaining.

It was another good start for Kelly (11-14), whose spot in the rotation was in jeopardy just a few weeks ago after a rough string of outings in July and August.

Tigers 8, Orioles 4, 12 innings

In Detroit, Victor Reyes hit a tying home run with two outs in the ninth inning and John Hicks had the game-winning grand slam in the 12th to lift Detroit past Baltimore.

The Orioles lost their 100th game for the second straight season after finishing 47-115 a year ago.

Hicks' blast to the bullpen in left field came off Ryan Eades (0-1) on a 2-2 count, and was his 12th of the season.

Astros 6, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Zack Greinke finally beat his old club and Yordan Álvarez belted a pinch-hit three-run homer as

Washington Nationals starting pitcher Austin Voth (50) throws a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves in Washington, Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019.

Houston beat the Royals.

Alex Bregman hit his 36th homer and rookie Kyle Tucker was 4-for-4 for the AL West-leading Astros.

Greinke (16-5) went six innings and handed a 2-1 lead to the bullpen. Héctor Rondón, Joe Smith, Bryan Abreu and Will Harris combined for three scoreless innings. Greinke gave up one run, six hits and no walks. He struck out seven.

This was the fifth start by Greinke against the Royals since they traded him after the 2010 season. He was 0-2 in the first four, all for different teams.

Rockies 11, Padres 10

In Denver, Charlie Blackmon homered to start a six-run inning, Daniel Murphy had four hits and 4 RBIs, and the Colorado Rockies hung on to beat San Diego.

Tony Wolters had a pair of hits and drove in two runs and Trevor Story doubled and singled and drove in a run. Manny Machado hit a three-run homer for San Diego.

Peter Lambert (3-6) went five innings and allowed five runs on five hits in snapping a drought that saw him go 0-6 with a 7.79 ERA over 15 starts after winning the first two starts of his career, both against the Chicago Cubs, on June 6 and 11.

Marlins 4, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Miguel Rojas doubled in the go-ahead run in the top of the eighth inning, Jorge Alfaro hit a massive home run off Madison Bumgarner, and rookie Robert Dugger pitched 6 1/3 solid innings as the Marlins beat the Giants.

Rojas broke a 2-2 tie with a run-scoring double to left off Giants reliever Shaun Anderson (3-5). Lewis Brinson singled in Rojas to make it 4-2.

Jarlin Garcia (3-1) retired the only batter he faced for the win.

Mariners 2, White Sox 1, 10 innings

In Seattle, Omar Narvaez hit a game-ending home run against his former team, Felix Hernandez turned in his best outing of the season and the Mariners beat the White Sox.

Narvaez's solo shot to right field bounced off the top of the wall, but stood up to review. Rookie Shed Long also hit a solo home run in the game to help Seattle snap a two-game losing streak.

Storylines aplenty as Browns-Jets square off



EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Well, this isn't quite how the Cleveland Browns and New York Jets expected to start the season.

Both are coming off opening losses and look to avoid going 0-2 with a Monday night matchup loaded with juicy storylines, surprising twists and a slight hint of desperation.

And, it's only Week 2.

"I think every game is a must-win game," Jets running back Le'Veon Bell said, "but obviously this game holds a lot of weight to it."

The Browns didn't live up to the preseason hype that had some making them potential Super Bowl contenders.

Instead, Cleveland committed 18 penalties—the most by the team since 1951—in a 43-13 loss to Tennessee that put early pressure on first-year coach Freddie Kitchens.

"I feel a lot of confidence with this team that we're going to get all the haters and naysayers out of here," cornerback Denzel Ward said, "so I hope everybody's all gone now and we're just focused on us."

Well, most of the Browns, that is.

Wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. returns to MetLife Stadium for the first time since being traded by the Giants in March. But that's not even the biggest headline.

Neither is all the attention on his expensive watch.

Beckham spiced things up Thursday when he called out former Browns defensive coordinator Gregg Williams—now in the same role with the Jets—and said the coach instructed players to hurt him in a preseason game in 2017. He sustained a severe ankle injury when Cleveland's Briean Boddy-Calhoun cut his legs out, something he says "changed my life forever" because he says it led to other injuries.

"Just got to watch out for the cheap shots and the dirty hits and all the things that he likes to teach," Beckham said.

Williams denied Beckham's accusations, and told reporters they should ignore the receiver's comments.

"We don't do that," Williams insisted. "Never done it anywhere that I've been. We don't do anything to hurt the team."

Williams, of course, is facing the Browns for the first time since leading them to a 5-3 record after taking over when Hue Jackson was fired—and then losing out to Kitchens for the vacancy.

"Obviously, he has a chip on his shoulder about this game," Jets safety Jamal Adams said.



"We're going to go out there and play for him. He's going to be all riled up."

Adam Gase was plenty fired up this week himself after the Jets blew a 16-0 third-quarter lead last Sunday in his debut for New York and lost 17-16 to Buffalo.

Kicker Kaare Vedvik was waived after he missed an extra point and a 45-yard field goal, and Sam Ficken was signed to replace him.

Second-year defensive lineman Nathan Shepherd was suspended six games for two violations of the NFL's policy on performance enhancers.

They swung a rare trade with New England, acquiring wide receiver Demaryius Thomas for a 2021 sixth-round draft pick.

Wide receiver Quincy Enunwa was lost for the season with his second neck injury in just over two years.

And, then, the capper of 'em all: Quarterback Sam Darnold was diagnosed with mononucleosis, likely sidelining him for several games. That means it'll be Trevor Siemian starting against Baker Mayfield, who appears OK after needing X-rays on his hand Sunday, and

the Browns on Monday night.

"I guess maybe I'm messed up," Gase said, trying to put a positive spin on it all. "I'm like, 'Great, let's go. Trevor is up, let's go find a way to win the game.'"

On Saturday, the Jets ruled out linebacker C.J. Mosley and rookie defensive tackle Quinten Williams for the game.

Beckham dismissed any extra motivation in going back to his old, New Jersey stomping grounds.

"It is just another game," he said. "It really is. 'Monday Night Football' in the lights. Just trying to get wins."

But Beckham is an entertainer and loves the big stage, so he'll undoubtedly try to put on a performance with the rest of the league watching.

And speaking of watching, Beckham said he'll sport the Richard Mille-designed watch: "if I want to wear it, I'll wear it." The league told the Browns that Beckham is violating their policy on "hard objects."

Antonio Brown said to be eligible, but will he play?

Antonio Brown is said to be

eligible to play against Miami. Whether he actually does after just three practices with the Patriots is still not clear.

"We're determining that," coach Bill Belichick said Friday. "I'm not gonna hand out a copy of the game plan. We'll do what we think is best for the team."

The star wide receiver Brown was not placed on the commissioner's exempt list, two people with direct knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Friday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision has not been announced.

Belichick, whose team faces the Dolphins on Sunday, would not confirm the move by the NFL before practice.

Brown has been accused of rape and sexual assault in a civil case in Florida and denies the allegations by his former trainer. He won't go on the exempt list this week because no criminal charges have been filed and because the NFL hasn't fully developed its investigation. Players on the list can't play in games or practice with a team but are still paid. A player can be placed on the exempt list at any point.

Brown signed with New

In this Sept. 20, 2018, file photo, Cleveland Browns wide receiver Jarvis Landry steps over New York Jets linebacker Brandon Copeland (51) during the first half of an NFL football game in Cleveland. Storylines are aplenty as Browns-Jets square off on Monday night.

England after requesting and receiving his release from the Oakland Raiders.

Since the lawsuit became public, the ordinarily flamboyant Brown has kept the lowest of profiles.

He arrived in Massachusetts on Monday in search of a fresh start following a trail of follies with the Raiders that included a bizarre foot injury, a dispute with the NFL over his helmet, missed practices, multiple fines and a run-in

with Oakland general manager Mike Mayock.

Now Brown is trying to acclimate himself to perhaps the most regimented environment in the NFL.

He's been mostly insulated off the field by the team. The four-time All-Pro has yet to address reporters since joining New England. He has been seen only on the practice field. The stall to his locker has been closed whenever reporters had access to the room, suggesting he has left for the day. He has been trying to learn a new playbook and system and earn the trust of quarterback Tom Brady.

Belichick said there's no way to gauge how long it takes a new player to get comfortable enough in New England's system.

Europe, US tied after brutal 2nd day at Solheim Cup

GLENÉAGLES, Scotland

(AP)—After a day of extraordinary comebacks, tense 18th-hole finishes, and some of the most brutal weather conditions in Solheim Cup history, still nothing can separate Europe and the United States at Gleneagles.

It's 8-8 heading to the final-day singles and there's no way of knowing which way this one's going to fall.

It was just gone 7 p.m. local time on Saturday when Danielle Kang rolled in a long birdie putt amid the gloom to clinch the last match of the afternoon fourballs for the U.S. on the 17th hole, depriving the Europeans of the lead.

Kang hugged playing partner Lizette Salas, who was wearing giant ear muffs and a thick coat. They were congratulated by U.S. captain Juli Inkster, who was wearing three hats. Golf carts parked around the green had their headlights on.

It was one of those days when balls fell off tees and police officers roaming the course were seen holding onto their hats.

"I'm sure they'd love to be playing in Spain right now," Inkster said of the players, "but this is where we're at."

It is the first time since 2011 in Ireland that Europe and the U.S. were tied going to the singles. The Europeans went on to lift the cup that year, and they are seeking to prevent a U.S. three-peat in women's golf's premier team event.

After the morning foursomes were shared 2-2, leaving Europe with a 6 1/2-



1/2 lead, Inkster made the bold decision to rest the three unbeaten players in her team for the fourballs. Out went the Korda sisters, who had just swept to a record-tying 6-and-5 win, and also Morgan Pressel, who won seven of nine holes with Marina Alex to come from 4 down and secure a 2-and-1 victory.

Inkster went out of her "pod" system that has guided her selection and put her faith in fresher players to bring home the points in winds that reached 44 mph (70 kph).

The U.S. won the fourballs 2 1/2-1 1/2, with the match involving Kang and Salas—2-up winners against Carlota Ciganda and Azahara Munoz the only one not reaching the 18th hole.

Brittany Altomare and Annie Park had a 1-up victory in the top match over Anne van Dam and Suzann Pettersen, who left a putt short from 15 feet at the last that would have earned Europe a half-point.

Caroline Masson saw a curling putt from 8 feet lip out on No. 18 as her and European teammate Jodi Ewart Shadoff settled for a half-point against Alex and Lexi Thompson, the world No. 3 who still hasn't won a match this week.

Then in the third match, Georgia Hall and Celine Boutier won the last five holes to recover from 3 down and claim a 2-up victory for Europe against Ally McDonald and Angel Yin. Hall and Boutier have played together in three matches and won all of them.

Joeten 1 hammers TanHoldings 2

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

 Joeten 1 crushed TanHoldings 2/ CTSI, 99-76, at the resumption of the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Joeten 1 played a consistent offense, scoring 20-plus points in each of the four quarters to whip TanHoldings 2/ CTSI in the first match in the league since it was put on hold in October last year after Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the islands.

After leading by only 5 points, 27-22, Joeten 1 pulled away in the second period with another 27-point production, 54-33. Kevin Kabiriel

scored 7 points in the second canto and got a lot of help from his teammates to hand Joeten 1 a 21-point advantage at the halftime break.

When the game resumed, Joeten 1 was still at it with Chris Lilles firing 16 of his 21 markers in the second half to lift the team to the easy victory. Lilles had 9 points in the third period, which ended with Joeten 1 comfortably ahead at 78-43.

With only a quarter left in the game and the win in the bag, Joeten 1 finally let its guard down and allowed TanHoldings 2 to pick up its scoring.

Ariel Jinang finished with 32 points for TanHoldings 2, making most of his baskets in the final canto, while Lawrence Deleon Guerrero contributed 16.

Tom Agustin and Vince



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Two Joeten 1 defenders tries to prevent TanHoldings 2's Benedict Canete from making a pass to his teammates during the resumption of games in the JP World caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Teregeyo had 16 markers each to back up Lilles, while Alex Lauron and Patrick Rotap also registered twin digits in Joeten's lopsided victory after recording 13 apiece.

Joeten 1 99—Lilles 21, Agustin 16, Teregeyo 16, Rotap 13, Lauron 13, Kabiriel 7, Tobias 5, Sambile 4, Quan 2.

TanHoldings 2/ CTSI 76—Jinang 32, Deleon Guerrero 16, Tenepere 14, Echavez 4, Rivera 4, Maliwanag 4, Manalili 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-22, 54-33, 78-43, 99-76.

CNMI

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field. We made our way to the stadium with a police escort and were greeted by heavy security and match officials in suit and ties. I believe it was at this point that the team realized this was not going to be like the usual NMIFA league matches they were used to playing," team manager Mikky Vargas said.

"Coach Mita (Michiteru Mita) expects that the experience they gained from last night's match will give the boys the focus they need in order to perform at an even higher level in the matches to come. The boys are now aware of the difference and gap between a local match and an international match—a realization that comes as their first and usually the most painful step of their ever-growing national career," Vargas added.

Next up for the CNMI crew is Brunei, which was also humbled by China, 7-0, last Saturday. The CNMI-Brunei tiff is set for 3:30pm today (6:30pm Saipan time). In the other Group G game tonight, host Indonesia will have its first match against the Philippines.

A series of lightning strikes followed by thunderclaps forced the cancellation of the 2019 All Schools Cross Country Championships Series 1 that was set for last Saturday at the Saipan Country Club.

Students from Saipan International School, Mount Carmel School, Agape Christian School, and others came out early despite the pouring rain and strong winds ready to start the season. Unfortunately, about 10 minutes before the start of the race, participants began retreating back to their vehicles due to harsh weather conditions that were not letting up.



Public School System Student Support Services Athletic Program director Nick Gross and Northern Marianas Athletics eventually called off the kick-off race for the safety of the students.

With the cancellation, PSS and NMA are expected to reset Series 1 to a later date and follow the remaining schedule of the qualifiers. The second leg is set for Sept. 21 also at the Saipan Country Club. The third leg will be held on Sept. 28 at the Banzai Cliff Lookout, as requested by Saipan International School, while the fourth qualifier on Oct. 5 will

return to the Saipan Country Club. The finale is originally

slated for Oct. 18, but may be pushed back to give way to

last Saturday's canceled race.
(Kimberly A. Bautista)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School students and teachers are all smiles and ready to race under a gloomy weather last Saturday at the Saipan Country Club.

Pardz triumphs over Tsingtao Boyz



Pardz Ballers notched its fourth straight victory after crushing Tsingtao Boyz, 94-63, in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Friday at the Civic Center Court.

Pardz prevailed over Tsingtao Boyz after gaining

cushion in the second quarter, which started with only 2 points separating the two teams. Pardz widened the gap, 43-30, after getting 13 points from Joseph Galulu in the second period.

Galulu finished the game with a team-high 20 markers—the same output Joseph Torres delivered for Pardz,

which now has a 5-2 record to move up to third place in the team standings.

Tsingtao remained on top of the team rankings in the 12-squad field, but has a 7-2 mark, just slightly ahead of Connie's BBQ (6-2).

Pardz completed the upset win over the league-leading Tsingtao after sizzling for 32

points in the fourth period. Torres and Ronald Bernardo finished off Tsingtao with the former firing 9 markers in the final canto and the latter delivering all his points in the payoff frame.

Jetzen Jandoc paced Tsingtao with his 17 points, while Jerald Rivera added 12. Tsingtao absorbed its second straight loss, as it never scored more than 17 points in each of

the four quarters.

Pardz Ballers 94—Torres 20, Galulu 20, Jose 13, Ritual 9, Bernardo 8, Calbone 5, Santos 4, Romo 4, Hipolito 3, Samban 2.

Tsingtao Boyz 63—Jandoc 17, Rivera 12, Broncano 10, Demonteverde 7, Danipog 7, Pineda 6, Tenepere 3, Giron 1.

Scoring by quarters: 17-15, 43-30, 62-47, 94-63.

25, Pablo 23, Tenepere 10, Torregosa 8, Deleon Guerrero 7, Lumen 4.

Scoring by quarters: 24-25, 56-40, 78-58, 107-77

Saturday Game

Caravan's 112—Viray 25, Standish 10, Factor 13, Rotap 11, Andrew 10, Sablan 9, Villarin 8, Rasa 6, Younis 6, Quan 4.

Aqua Resort 55—Ferrer 22, Arellano 12, Maratita 10, Metran 6, Laborro 3, Salazar 2.

Scoring by quarters: 30-17, 63-30, 88-37, 112-55.

AK

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TanHoldings with the former drilling 25 points and the latter logging 23.

Catalla hit 9 of his total points in the second quarter, turning a 24-25 deficit to a 56-40 advantage in the first half. Toyota went on to pad its lead in the second half, thanks to TanHoldings' lack of manpower to match up with the former's gunners.

Meanwhile, Caravan's also proved to be too much against

Aqua Resort, as the winning team went to work early to set up the rout.

Caravan's exploded for 30 points in the first quarter to earn a baker's dozen lead and was never threatened after that.

Ken Viray delivered 8 of his 25 points in the first period to give Caravan's the early control in the match en route to the squad's second victory in three games. Aqua absorbed its second straight loss after winning its debut (versus TanHoldings).

Alex Standish also had a

solid game for Caravan's after firing 20 points and a season-best (so far) 23 rebounds. Prince Factor, Patrick Rotap and Josh Andrew were the other double-figure scorers for Caravan's after posting 13, 11, and 10, respectively.

Friday Game

AK Toyota 107—Lauron 20, Manalo 16, Catalla 14, Borja 13, Natividad 12, Kintol 10, De Guzman 10, Guias 8, Francia 4.

TanHoldings 77—Dayao



Popovich
defends seventh
placer Team USA

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Braves pound
Nationals, clinch
playoff spot

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sinclair stands out in Davis Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Colin Sinclair suited for the Pacific Oceania Team and helped the squad get its promotion to the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group III.



AK Toyota's Alex Lauron, left, stretches for a layup against TanHoldings' Ramsa Tenepere during the third quarter of their game in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

AK Toyota, Caravan's rout foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

AK Toyota and Caravan's reached past the century mark to clobber their respective opponents in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League.

Caravan's pounced on Aqua Resort Club, 112-55, last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, while AK Toyota eased past TanHoldings in last Friday's curtain-raiser, 107-77.

TanHoldings showed up for its third match of the season with only six players, allowing AK Toyota to break the game wide open late in

Sinclair, who won three gold medals and a silver in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa, the Cook Islands' Brett Baudinet and Papua New Guinea's Matthew Stubbings were in Pool A of the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group IV Tournament that started last Wednesday in Amman, Jordan. The Pacific Oceania players swept their pool assignments, beating Bangladesh, 3-0, and Saudi Arabia, 2-1.

The pair of victories moved Sinclair and company to the semifinals where they topped the United Arab Emirates, 2-0, to seal a promotional spot to Group III (for the 2020 tournament) and arranged a finals duel against Jordan. The two promotional berths are given to the Top 2 finishers in the 14-team tournament, which also included Guam (ranked No. 11 after the playoffs).

Sinclair played in singles 2 for Pacific Oceania in their game against Bangladesh and crushed Dipu Lal, 6-0, 6-0, to secure the outright win for their squad. Earlier in singles 1, Stubbings dominated Mohammed Hossain, 6-0, 6-2. Sinclair and Baudinet then completed the Pacific Oceania sweep with a 6-0, 6-0, triumph



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Colin Sinclair, seen here returning a shot during a match in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa, led Pacific Oceania to the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group III promotion.

in the doubles against the Bangladesh pair.

Versus Saudi Arabia, Sinclair and Baudinet's 6-3, 7-6 (9-7)

win over Ammar and Saud Alhaqbane saved Pacific Oceania. Sinclair also prevailed in his singles match

against Saud, 6-1, 6-1 to make up for the loss that Stubbings absorbed at the hands of Am-

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CNMI drops AFC qualifier debut

The Philippines handed the CNMI a 7-0 beating at the start of the Group G Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Quali-

fiers last Saturday at the Madya Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Playing against a much-experienced team, the Teen Ayuy-

us surrendered an early goal to the Philippines, which went on to domi-

nate possession in the game en route to the easy victory. Mid-



fielder Vincent Aron Saludo delivered the first goal for the PH in the third minute, while forward John Lloyd Jalique led the squad with his hat trick after scoring in the 33rd, 42nd, and 51st. David Pahud, Simon Del Campo, and Benjamin Palacio were the other scorers for the Philippines.

Despite the big loss, the Teen Ayuyus took a lot of positives from the defeat.

"For majority of the boys, this tournament is their first ever international competition and it definitely showed on the

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ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION
The CNMI's Jerick Tiamzon, second left, holds down the Philippines' Vincent Saludo during the first half of their game in the Group G Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers last Saturday at the Madya Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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